

MID-CHESHIRE COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT.

1894.

VITAL STATISTICS

AND

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SANITARY DISTRICTS

OF

ALTRINCHAM RURAL

CONGLETON "

NANTWICH "

NORTHWICH "

LYMM URBAN

MIDDLEWICH URBAN

NANTWICH "

NORTHWICH "

SANDBACH "

WINSFORD "

AND

BIDDULPH URBAN.

FOR THE YEAR 1894.

PREPARED BY

JOHN MAKINSON FOX,

The Medical Officer of Health of the District.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT BOARD.

MANCHESTER:

"GUARDIAN" GENERAL PRINTING WORKS, BLACKFRIARS STREET.

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DE PRÆTERITIS.

I observe that in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of the County Council for the year 1893, it is stated (page 24), in regard to myself, "the Medical Officer of Health for these Districts questions the usefulness of notification." No; I have criticised details of the Act which render it unacceptable to every member of all the Authorities that I represent. It is the part of one who is favourable to the Act to endeavour to remove its objectionable features.

Again, it is stated on page 23 of the same Report, "the Medical Officer of Health for the Nantwich Rural District believes that in districts which have adopted the Act (Compulsory Notification), the mortality from Scarlatina is greater than in the Nantwich Rural District," where the Act is not enforced. I say nothing of the kind. I say nothing of any "belief" at all. On the other hand, in my Annual Report to the Nantwich Rural Sanitary Authority, I merely place on record an interesting *fact*, namely, that in the non-notifying District of the Nantwich Rural District Council the mortality from Scarlet Fever is lower per 1,000 population than in other Rural Districts, similar in all respects, where the Act has been adopted. In another year this incident may be repeated or not. It will be interesting and useful to observe. (*Vide* present issue).

J. M. F.

February, 1895.

1894.

ALTRINCHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Rural Sanitary Authority, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Rural District Council of Altrincham. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Concil or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homoea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

The population of the Altrincham Rural District Council to the middle of 1894 or beginning of 1895 is estimated at 31,300. It is true in this District, as in every other in England and Wales, that the populations of the distinctly Rural Townships remain stationary or are subject to diminution. But the increase in the population of the semi-urban Townships affords abundant compensation.

It is well that the Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1894 present a favourable and progressive aspect, because the same is true for England and Wales. The total number of Births that were registered during the year was 717, which is equivalent to an annual Birth-rate of 22·8 per 1,000 resident population. This is a low Birth-rate, and is somewhat below the average. But this is in accordance with the Report of the Registrar General, in which it is stated that the Birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1894 is the lowest which has ever been put on record since the establishment of Civil Registration in the year 1851.

The number of Deaths during the same period is 438, which is equivalent to an Annual General Death-rate of 13·2. I believe that this Death-rate is as low, if not lower, than has been chronicled in any previous Report; and here again we are in harmony with the Returns of the Registrar General, who makes this notable statement that the National Death-rate, 16·6, is the lowest that has been signified since the establishment of Civil Registration. Our Death-rate is 3·4 per 1,000 less than that of England and Wales, representing a saving of nearly 200 lives.

The Zymotic rate is also equally encouraging, being greatly under a unit, or 0·53 per 1,000; or, calculated upon the more serious Zymotic diseases, or those subject to compulsory notification, 0·26. The Zymotic Death-rate for England and Wales is 1·76 per 1,000, or 1·23 per 1,000 in excess of that for this District.

The Deaths from Zymotic disease in this District are—4 from Scarlet Fever, 5 from Diphtheria, 1 from Measles, and 8 from Whooping Cough.

Very different is the Return of Notifications. There have been received 116 notifications of Scarlet Fever, giving a mortality of 3·44 to every 100 non-fatal cases of this disease. The notifications from Diphtheria are 36 in number, showing a mortality of 13·8 deaths to every 100 notifications.

There was no tendency, nor anything approaching it, to the cases of Diphtheria spreading. Many of them were in healthy farmhouses. This is still a disease shrouded in mystery, the wind being more frequently than is the case in any other similar disease a means of conveying the germs from one place to another. This disease also has become subject to great modification. I can well remember in the "fifties" when it killed almost all it touched, when it always became epidemic, and when people regarded it with terror. At any rate, the modifications in the modern form of the disease, that it never spreads, and is fatal only in the proportion of 13 fatal to 100 non-fatal cases, are of great value and significance. Again, more frequently than not, the Diphtheria is not found to be associated with insanitary conditions, such as assumed a dreadful appearance in former years.

Going through the months of the year, *January* brought 10 notifications, 7 Scarlet Fever (one fatal at Rostherne). There was also a fatal case of Diphtheria (a very young child) in Church Street, Northenden.

In the month of *February* 10 notifications were received, 8 being of Scarlet Fever, scattered over all parts of the District. There was one doubtful case of Typhoid (a young child of two years), which was notified from Ashton-on-Mersey.

March. Eleven notifications, 8 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 3 of Diphtheria, one of which proved fatal in Grove Lane, Timperley. No insanitary conditions were found in connection with the premises.

April. Ten notifications, 8 Scarlet Fever. A case of Enteric Fever was notified in Knutsford, to which much attention was given by Mr. McKenzie and myself.

May. Twelve notifications, 10 being Scarlet Fever. There was one case of Diphtheria in the Township of Northenden, which was thought to be due to a very faulty drain at the Mission Hall, which was immediately remedied.

June. Sixteen Notifications, 11 Scarlet Fever (chiefly from Partington and Carrington). The Schools were voluntarily closed, with very good effect. Partington was responsible also for 3 cases of Typhoid Fever. These were occasioned by the horrible smells in connection with the Ship Canal, which will be spoken of again presently.

July. This month was remarkable for the notification of 1 case of Small-pox, which occurred in a sumptuous mansion in the Township of Baguley. The patient was a medical student, who, I think, enjoyed his period of rest. No doubt he had contracted the disease in the pursuit of his profession. He did perfectly well, and never gave the least cause for anxiety.

August and September. Thirteen Notifications, only two being of interest—one a fatal case of Diphtheria in Brook Lane, Timperley, where insanitary conditions abounded and were remedied. The second was a case of Enteric Fever, reported from Carrington Moss. The patient was very carefully looked after by the Manchester Corporation. But it is significant, and should be noted.

October. Three cases of Diphtheria occurred in one house in Bollington. Doubtful water supply and defective drainage were observed in connection with these cases, which Mr. Smith kindly visited with me. Typhoid case at Northenden, contracted in Withington.

November. Sixteen Notifications, chiefly Scarlet Fever, with the exception of 2 cases of Diphtheria at Quarry Bank, Timperley. The drains and closets of the premises were faulty enough to account for the kind of blood-poisoning to which those who use them might be susceptible. All are not susceptible to the same forms of Zymotic disease. Specific germs will not live in the bodies of some, though they greatly affect the bodies of others. The defective drains and closets have been entirely reconstructed, and are now satisfactory.

December. As many as 25 Notifications were received in this month. They included a fatal case of Typhoid at Knutsford, which was imported from the South of England. There were a few cases of modified Diphtheria (with one death) in Victoria Road, Hale. The insanitary conditions were found to be (1) The injudicious keeping of animals—goats, &c.,—with no adequate air space; (2) The blocking up of yards, already too small, by illegal erections; (3) The imperfect ventilation of closets by useless one-inch-bore gas-pipes; and (4) The sadly defective ventilation of the main sewer. All these matters must receive the early attention of the Council, if they have not already done so.

The systematic inspection of the District has been carried on with zeal and regularity. If I am called upon at the present time to give an account of the Sanitary state of the District it would be fairly satisfactory, but marred by many shortcomings.

I. In the first place, in spite of the energetic efforts of the Chairman of the late Board, very little progress has been made towards the establishment of an Isolation Hospital for cases of Small-pox. Does the Council wish that the County Council should step in, according to the Act of 1894, and attend to this matter for us? If not, they are bound to act with promptitude. The Medical Officer of the County Council states in his Report that the Altrincham Rural Sanitary District, the Urban District of Wilmslow, and the Urban District of Lymm, “would appear to form a veritable area for

a joint Hospital District"; and that " Knutsford, or a little North of it, would be a good position for the proposed Hospital, to provide not less than 40 beds." The proposed site would be about ten miles distant from Lymm. No doubt this subject will receive serious consideration in Committee.

II. Again, the Water Supply of Knutsford has been proved to be dangerously precarious. Water is the first necessary of life, and should be quite pure and aerated. When sewage matters are poured into streams the waters carry the ova of parasites and the germs of Zymotic diseases. The storage and filtration of such waters get rid of certain impurities, but not of all. But in a public water supply there should be no risk. I am of opinion that this water should be condemned, and a fresh source of supply diligently looked for. Of course, the Water Company have a perfect right to act on the defensive; and I have no doubt that, at times, they might succeed in obtaining a satisfactory analysis. But they have these damaging facts against them: (1) Known liability to contamination. (2) Overwhelming adverse testimony of inhabitants. (3) Varying character of analyses from time to time, and, therefore, unreliability at some particular times. Should it be decided that the present source of supply is to be continued, the Company are bound to adopt the Porter-Clark Filtering Process, which no doubt carries to the bottom, with the chalk, all organic matter.

III. Again, the accommodation for burying in Knutsford is a question which must at once engage the attention of the responsible Authority, whichever that may be. It has been known for years that fresh interments can hardly be made in either Churchyard without the disturbance of human remains. And yet this profanation is allowed to continue. Much difficulty has been met with in endeavouring to secure a suitable site for a Cemetery. It was unfortunate that a generous offer on the part of the Vicar (Mr. Barnacle) did not meet with encouragement, and it is now no longer available. I suppose it would be premature for me to speak of the advantages of Cremation. Under this system there is much economy in land; and, both for purposes of sewerage and the inhumation of communities, more difficulties will be found from year to year in the procuring of adequate sites.

There is no doubt that the tendency of science and common sense is moving surely in the direction of Cremation. If it be considered that forty million deaths occur in the world every year, of which 500,000 are in England and Wales, it will be obvious how much corruption is thus added to the earth. Amongst these deaths must be included all those from Asiatic Cholera in India and elsewhere, and all other infectious diseases, with their specific germs possibly in a full state of activity. Buried in the soil, many of these might escape destruction, but in the flames all must perish, and corruption of the body would never be known. The scandals of our present burial system would cease. But there is no reason why a well-devised inhumation should not go on side by side with Cremation. Habits change slowly, and if trials are made experience will decide. Sentimental objections should not predominate. Surely the contemplation of the dissolution of the departed should overwhelm every other feeling. Some would prefer a house of rest in the earth; others a home in the sky. But it seems hardly conceivable that persons of refined tastes should prefer the prolonged operation of worms, mould, putrefaction, and liability to profanation, to the more cleanly system of instant purification and settlement by fire.

IV. Again, the state of Hale Moss and the Knutsford Moss continues to be a source of dissatisfaction. Air is rightly called vital, for breath is life; and when we consider that we breathe fifteen times a minute and 22,000 times in a day and night, it will be readily understood how injuriously the smallest contamination of air, so continuously absorbed, must act upon the system. Hale Moss and Knutsford Moss must, like all undrained places, throw off gases which are called miasmatic. When these undrained areas were more extensive, ague was a prevalent disease in this county. This disease is still to be found endemic amongst the Fens of Lincolnshire and amongst the hop-pickers in Kent, though it is getting less so every year. I am glad to say that I have not recorded a death from ague in either of these districts during seventeen years. But my opinion is this, that the effect of these emanations may stop short of ague, but still be generally devitalising in its tendency, and may be the source of other evils; and thus I feel justified in calling upon the Council to deal in an earnest manner remedially with these places.

I observe one death from Syphilis. This is a criminal offence, for the disease infects the blood of one, and, at times, of two generations.

V. Considerable difficulty has arisen in connection with the Manchester Ship Canal. Cases of Typhoid Fever were distinctly traced to the deposit of filthy dredgings from the Canal in the Township of Partington. I say with cordiality that the Directors of the Company have done much to abate the nuisance by the free use of lime and other disinfectants. But why should not the dredgings be taken out to sea in one of the Company's own boats? In distant times or near, if the site of these deposits should ever in ignorance become building sites for dwellings, evil consequences of the most flagrant description are sure to arise.

The Scavenging Contracts have been renewed as usual in the different Townships, namely, Hale, Ashton-on-Mersey, Dunham, and Knutsford. I think Mr. McKenzie has succeeded, with very few exceptions, in keeping the contractors up to their work. Such shortcomings as he has noticed have been signified to the Board.

Another great operation of the year 1894 has been the establishment of a system of Sewers at Northenden.

The five Sewage Outfalls under the Authority's care have been regularly inspected. They have sometimes come under the adverse notice of the Joint Water Committee constituted for the protection of the Rivers Mersey and Irwell. We are thankful for such assistance in the work of Inspection, and the comments of Mr. Tatton have been attended to with the same regularity as though they proceeded from ourselves.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging-houses, and Canal Boats have all received the ordinary amount of attention.

There has been no action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

I have omitted to mention—and so favourable a circumstance will not bear omission—the marked disparity in the number of old age and infant deaths. As many as 151 persons, or 35 per cent. of the whole mortality, have attained the age of 65 years and upwards; whereas only 86, or 19·5 per cent., have died prematurely in infancy. This is almost a unique phenomenon in my experience. The death-rate of infants affords an invaluable test of the sanitary condition of a population, and is for this purpose more important than the death-rate of any age-period. The proportion of infant deaths is expressed statistically by saying that there are 119 deaths of Infants under one, to 1,000 births.

In regard to these relative deaths, I may say that there might have been much advice to offer had the infant mortality been in excess; but the only comment I can make upon the excess of old age mortality is to express the hope for all in this room that we all may be able to go and do likewise, and that we in our time may help to swell this desirable majority.

The usual Tables accompany the Report.

JOHN M. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health of the Mid-Cheshire Combined Sanitary District.

ALTRINCHAM RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Area in Acres, 62,307. Population (1891), 36,035.

Death-rates { General, 13·2 per 1,000 population.
Infants, 120 per 1,000 Births registered.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

(B) *Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of ALTRINCHAM, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

[illegible]

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: *Yes*. Since when? *1891*. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: *Marquee at Knutsford*.

(A) *Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of ALTRINCHAM, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																Total.						
	At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.		FEVERS.																						
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.		Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	
(a)								(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Entire District	438	86	29	18	17	137	151	{ Under 5.. 5 upwards.	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4	..	..	..	27	1	2	63	110
including									..	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	3	1	1	1	1	1	..	75	36	5	171	328
Altrincham	181	46	10	8	8	59	50	{ Under 5.. 5 upwards.	..	3	2	3	13	13	1	65	33	54
Lymm	39	4	3	4	2	9	17	{ Under 5.. 5 upwards.	1	1	5	1	..	1	7	127
Knutsford	157	25	11	4	5	56	56	{ Under 5.. 5 upwards.	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	6	3	1	23	35
Wilmslow.....	61	11	5	2	2	13	28	{ Under 5.. 5 upwards.	..	1	2	1	3	1	3	4	1	6	14	47

ALTRINCHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infaney, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average	1894.	General.		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
717	438	19	23·6	22·8	15·0	13·2	·84	·53	151	86	34·8	19·5

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths, in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000.	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st.....	235	...	85	47	...	...	...	...	2	2	6	...	3	13	15
June 30th.....															
September 30th.....	104	...	32	20	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	1	7	10
December 31st.....	99	...	34	19	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	4	4

TABLE III.

Showing Population, Estimated, 1894; Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, Death-Rate; Deaths from Special Diseases, and at special ages, in entire Sanitary District, the Sub-Districts of Registration, and the individual Townships, in the year 1894; and compared with the average of former years.

Populations, Estimated, 1894.	REGISTRATION DISTRICTS AND TOWNSHIPS.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.			DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES, AND PHTHISIS.								TWO GROUPS OF AGES.	
		Entire.	Rate per 1,000.	Entire.	Death-rate per 1,000.		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Deaths under One year of Age.	Deaths at 65 yrs. and upwards.
					Av'age	1894.										
31,300	{ENTIRE SANITARY DISTRICT	717	22·8	438	15·0	13·2	...	1	4	5	8	1	5	29	86	151
14,125	ALTRINCHAM R.S.D.	326	23·0	181	...	12·7	...	...	...	3	3	1	3	13	46	50
4,500	Ashton-on-Mersey	...	...	50	...	11·1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	16	16
814	Baguley .....	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	3
2,661	Timperley .....	...	...	43	...	16·1	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	4	10	10
3,450	Hale .....	...	...	36	...	10·4	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	9	11
450	Ashley.....	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
2,250	Dunham Massey*	...	...	36	...	16·0	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	7	8
3,702	LYMM R.S.D.....	74	19·8	39	...	10·3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	17
780	Carrington .....	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	7
676	Partington .....	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
223	Bollington .....	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
416	Warburton .....	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
844	High Leigh.....	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
106	Agden .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
273	Millington .....	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
384	Aston-by-Bud- worth .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
8,604	KNUTSFORD R.S.D.	208	24·2	157	...	18·2	...	1	4	...	2	...	...	10	25	56
611	Tabley.....	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
401	Mere .....	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
407	Rostherne .....	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
149	Tatton.....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
223	Marthall.....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
673	Peover.....	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
269	Ollerton .....	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
208	Toft .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
4,566	Knutsford†.....	...	...	63	...	13·8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	25
200	Workhouse.....	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	4	17
177	H.M. Prison ...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
115	Bexton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
381	Plumbley .....	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
224	Pickmere .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
4,869	WILMSLOW R.S.D..	109	22·4	61	...	12·7	...	...	...	2	3	...	1	3	11	28
1,100	Styal .....	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4
1,292	Mobberley .....	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	6
1,719	Northenden .....	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	1	6	8
758	Etchells .....	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

* Here is a Hospital for Consumption.

† Workhouse Deaths not belonging to the District excluded in calculating Death-rates.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING 1894.

SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION.

In following up and investigating cases of Infectious Disease one is brought into contact with a greater part of the District.

During the year, 403 inspections have been made of various cases of nuisance, along with 254 complaints of a similar nature. Many of these have been speedily abated by personal appeals to the aggressor, while in others the formal "Blue Papers" have been called into requisition.

Water Supply: Carrington and Partington.—Special attention has been directed to the urgent need of a complete scheme of Water Supply for the Townships of Carrington and Partington.

The vested interests of the wealthy Corporation of Manchester in these two Townships, enabled us to appeal to them for assistance in this very important and much-needed work. They have still the matter under consideration, which will not prevent us pressing the matter forward and completing it without delay.

New Bye-Laws.—New Bye-Laws have been drafted for dealing with and regulating the Manure Traffic at Timperley and Bollington. Also additional Building Bye-Laws for the entire District have been drafted. These await formal adoption and approval by the New Council.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The systematic scavenging under yearly contracts of four Townships, viz., Ashton-on-Mersey, Hale, Dunham, and Knutsford, still continues in operation. From frequent inspections the work has been found well and efficiently done. The populous portions of Northenden and Timperley should have scavenging areas arranged and contracts invited without further delay. Repeated complaints from both Townships show the desirability of such a scheme.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Sewage Outfalls.—The five Sewage Outfalls under the Authority's care have been regularly inspected, and frequent analyses of effluents made by Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee. These have been tabulated and placed in competition with some 36 various other Authorities' Outfalls, frequently occupying premier positions.

Northenden Scheme.—The contract for a Complete Scheme of Sewerage for the Township of Northenden was let in April last to Mr. William Barton for a sum of £2,969. Work has been briskly proceeding since, and ere the first month of 1895 closes we hope to have the whole of the work completed and in working order, and, I am happy to say, without any accident of any description.

New Sewers and Sewage Schemes.—New Sewers have been laid in Moss Lane, Timperley, Hesketh Road, Ashton-on-Mersey, to cope with growing requirements of each district. The reconstruction of Tanks and Sludge Pits at Dark Lane Tanks, Carrington, has also been commenced.

Plans have also been prepared for entire reconstruction of Sewage Tanks at Knutsford. The new scheme provides for altering existing Tanks and the new one into the "Continuous Flow" system. Four New Filters, equalling 350 square yards in area, and preparing some three to four acres of adjoining low-lying Moor for Irrigation purposes, in compliance with regulations of Local Government Board.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The provision of a suitable Hospital for Infectious Diseases still hangs fire. A very suitable site was offered fronting Pavement Lane, Mobberley. It has been secured on a twelve months' tenancy, with the option of purchase at the expiration of same. A Special Committee have met several times, and discussed plans of a suitable building. The question was deferred for the consideration of the New Council for two reasons, *i.e.*:—

1. The opposition and feeling arising from the Township concerned.
2. The refusal by Authority to purchase land out and out.

INSPECTOR'S AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Nuisances inspected and reported upon—all abated	...	...	...	...	...
Complaints received as to Nuisances—all visited and remedial steps taken	...	...	...	...	...
Cases of Overcrowding reported and abated	...	...	...	...	...
Cases of Infectious Disease notified, personally visited, and supplied with disinfectants, &c.	...	...	...	...	...
Premises personally stoved and disinfected	...	...	...	...	...
Houses reported with Bad Water Supply—wholesome supply obtained afterwards by service of formal notices	...	...	...	...	...
Samples Water Analysed—Passed, 4 ; Doubtful (to be filtered), 6 ; Condemned 3	...	...	...	...	...
Scavenging Contracts in force in 4 Townships, amounting to	...	...	...	...	...
Systematic Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds throughout District.	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „ Slaughter-houses (one License refused for new premises).	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „ Common Lodging-houses (all in Knutsford).	...	...	...	...	...
Cleansing Old Sewers and Relaying same at Knutsford ; Iron Pipes, Outfall Sewer (Baguley), near Railway Station (Ashton-on-Mersey), Whittle Street (Mobberley), Town Lane—cost	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding Cases Reported and satisfactorily abated	...	...	...	...	...
Systematic Inspection of Main Sewers, Sewage Farms, and Outfalls in 7 Townships.	...	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats Inspected	...	...	...	...	...
Building Plans reported upon and passed for New Buildings, mainly in Townships of Ashton-on-Mersey, Timperley, Hale, and Dunham	...	...	...	...	...
New Houses (Rural Districts) Water Certificates Granted (prior to occupation) under P. H. Water Act, 1878 (6 houses not satisfactory, certificates withheld)	...	...	...	...	...
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	...	...

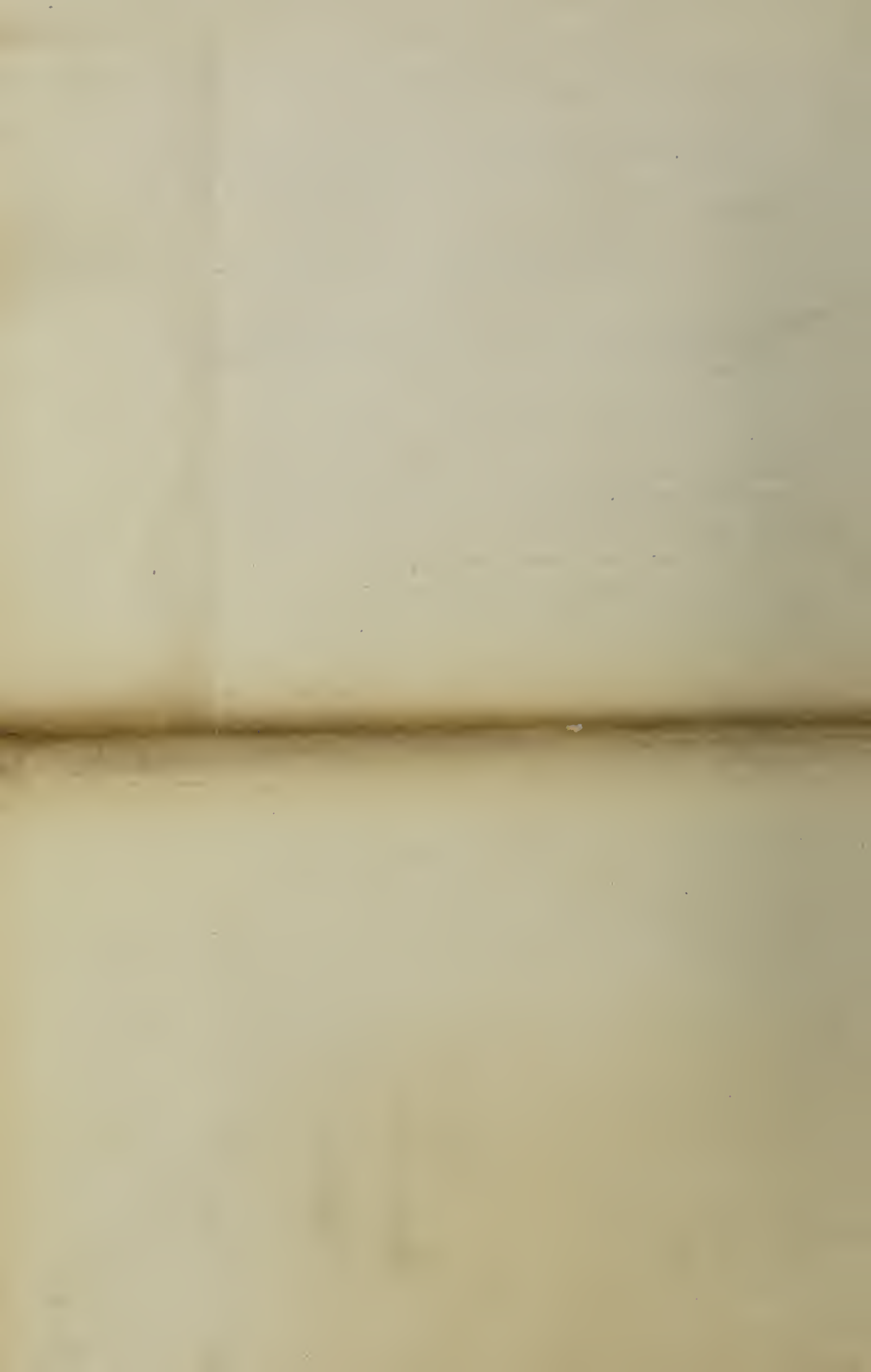
SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Northenden Drainage Scheme—Superintending and carrying out entire Drainage Scheme for Township—Contract	£2,969
Knutsford Sewage Works—Preparing Plans, Sections, and Detailed Estimates for New Tanks and Filters—Estimated cost	£1,500
New Sewers—Preparing Plans and Specifications for the following New Sewers and Tanks :—	
<div> <div> Town Lane, Mobberley Hesketh Road, A.-on-M. Moss Lane, Timperley Dark Lane Tanks, Senderland </div> <div> } Cost </div> </div>	£275
New Roads—Preparing Plans, Sections, and Provisional Apportionments for making following Roads, under Private Street Works Act, 1892, which are now completed and declared Public Highways :—	
<div> Ashton-on-Mersey <div> Park Road Hollins Grove Grosvenor Square </div> </div> <div> } Cost... .. </div>	£1,567
Urban Powers—Obtained for providing Fire Appliances, &c., for Protection from Fire in Hale, Dunham, and Timperley—Payment to Altrincham U.D. Council	£31
Preparing Plans and other Details for Infectious Diseases Hospital on site fronting Pavement Lane, Mobberley—Estimated cost	£250
Preparing Plans and Carrying out New Block of Fowler's Closets on site of Demolished Cottages, " Cotton Shop Yard," Knutsford—Contract	£45

LOSSIE BANK,
BOWDON.

J. McD. McKENZIE,
Surveyor and Inspector.

January 9th, 1895.



1894.

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Rural Sanitary Authority, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Rural District Council of Congleton. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Concil or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "*Homocea*," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

I have nothing to record but what is good in the Annual Report for the year 1894, so far as the Vital Statistics are concerned; but I have much to express with regret as to difficulties of administration.

We have lost Alsager from the District. We have a good past record to give to the new Urban Council; and the Council will agree with me in expressing an earnest wish that the change may be for their advantage. I may be permitted to tender my earnest thanks to Mr. Cotton for his hearty co-operation with me always in any recommendations that have been made for the good of that Township. The sewers have been additionally ventilated; the water supply has not been deficient; and the only difficulty has been a maintenance on the part of supposed experts of a wrong state of things which may now possibly receive correction. It has been, I suppose, our fault that we have not gone in for whimsical schemes. But I distinctly affirm, on the part of the Council, and the same statement will go to the Local Government Board, that no sanitary consideration for the benefit of Alsager has been neglected.

1. *Systematic Inspection*.—I do not know of any former year in which Systematic Inspection has been more diligently attended to. I may take this opportunity of informing the Council that our mode of procedure in this respect has been made to vary considerably by the adoption of the Act for the Compulsory Notification of Infectious Diseases. Again and again our arrangements for business have had to be modified. My friend, Mr. Hill, and myself, have frequently made arrangements for a systematic inspection of a certain Township. But a notification of a certain infectious disease in some other Township has come in, which has entirely altered our arrangements. I do not complain of this; but I distinctly state with emphasis that the Act of Compulsory Notification of Infectious Diseases should have been supplemented by the creation of an additional order of Inspectors under this Act. There has been no difficulty in creating Inspectors under the new Factory and Milkshops Act; and I claim for my constituents a similar additional provision. Personally I may not care much for this provision; but it must be understood how the work of systematic inspection, and inspection under the Notification Act, interfere with one another.

2. *Sanitary State of District*.—The Sanitary state of the District at the present time is so well-ordered that the new Council need not be afraid or ashamed to take over the responsibilities of past years. There is one very great and lamentable evil, which I should, with all earnestness, implore the new Council to assist me in dealing with. I allude to the utterly insanitary condition of portions of three Townships, namely, Elworth, Elton, and Bradwall. In treating with this difficulty, I must say, in the interests of the late Authority, that our greatest obstacle to action has arisen from a traditional unwillingness on the part of the Local Government Board to create Special Drainage Districts. I can only aver that the sanitary evils here are immense. They cannot be exaggerated; and I lay it upon the Council, and the County Council, and the Local Government Board, that we should receive now every possible assistance in dealing with this great sanitary evil.

3. *Excrement Disposal*.—I have satisfied myself, from repeated visits in all the Townships, that there is little ground for complaint in this respect. Farmers like the manure, and cart it away. I am not sure that this expression of approval applies to the Township of Odd Rode; and I should be sincerely glad if a scheme of Sewerage and Water Supply could be arranged for this District. I am very thankful to learn that Mr. Baker, J.P., has been elected as a member of the present new Council.

4. *Compulsory Notification*.—Our action under this new Statute has been daily and incessant. Disinfectants and applicable notices of precautions have been supplied in every instance. Schools have been closed, from time to time, often voluntarily; and, I think, with good results. Under the direction of the late Authority, short handbills of instructions as to general and special infectious diseases have been published, with a view to saving the time of the Inspector. I should wish the District generally, and all schools, to be flooded with the information contained in these leaflets.

5. We have now got a capital Hospital for the isolation of cases of Small-pox as they may be brought from time to time in our well vaccinated and protected community. I believe this provision to be a necessary evil.

6. Dairies, Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging-houses, and Canal Boats have been under systematic observation.

7. There have been no legal proceedings throughout the year.

8. The usual Tables accompany this Report, from which it will be seen that our Birth-rate for the year 1894 is 29·4, which is distinctly a high rural Birth-rate; and our general Death-rate is 14·5 per 1,000 living population, which is as low as I can ever hope to attain to.

Our Zymotic Deaths, only 9 in number, are equivalent to an annual zymotic rate of mortality of under a unit per thousand population, or 0·74.

JOHN M. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health of the Mid-Cheshire Combined Sanitary District.

Area in Acres, 42,219. Population (1891), 14,417.
 Death-rates { General, 14·5 per 1,000 population.
 { Infants, 110 per 1,000 Births registered.

(B) *Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of CONGLETON, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: *Yes*. Since when? *1892*. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: *Arclid Hospital, Arclid*.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJUNED AGES.						(g)	(h)	MORTALITY FROM SUBJUNED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.										Total.								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.			(h) 65 and upwards.	FEVERS.																	
										Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.		Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phtisis.
Entire District	233	48	19	9	10	75	72	Under 5.. { 5 upwards.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	67 166
including Congleton	14	4	1	1	1	3	4	Under 5.. { 5 upwards.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5 9	
Sandbach.....	174	38	16	6	7	56	51	Under 5.. { 5 upwards.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	54 120	
AND Church Hulme	45	6	2	2	2	16	17	Under 5.. { 5 upwards.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8 37	

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average	1894.	General.*		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
434	233	11	29·0	29·4	15·3	15·6	·90	·74	72	48	30·9	20·6

* Corrected for W. H., 14·5.

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths, in the four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000.	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st.....	93	...	24	23	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	5	2
June 30th	63	...	18	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
September 30th.....	35	...	15	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
December 31st	42	...	15	16	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	4	1

Showing Population, Estimated, 1894; Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, Death-Rate; Deaths from Special Diseases, and at special ages, in entire Sanitary District, the Sub-Districts of Registration, and the individual Townships, in the year 1894; and compared with the average of former years.

[illegible]

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in bringing forward my Annual Report, which, I trust, will prove satisfactory.

I have systematically inspected my 28 Townships, which tend to show an improvement.

In those districts where scavengers are employed, the removal of night-soil, &c., has been well looked after, and the sewers kept in good order. One length of drainage at Holmes Chapel gave way, but was soon put in order again.

The Irrigation Grounds are working well, and no complaints about them have been received.

The Supply of Water caused me great difficulty during the summer, the springs being very low for some time.

Rode Heath and Thurlwood are both in a very bad condition for the want of a proper system of sewerage, and if the inhabitants could but see it, a small expense, I think, would remedy it.

There have been 3 cases of Overcrowding, which I have rectified.

Zymotic Disease has not been so prevalent as in 1893. I fear that we shall never be quite free from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, as it is impossible to keep families and children from mixing together and visiting infected houses. I have done all I can to show them the danger of doing so; separated, as far as possible, the diseased from the rest of the family; and have also furnished every case with disinfectants.

There have been no cases of Small-pox for the New Hospital. Mr. Young, the Governor of the Workhouse, keeps it in very good order, so that if required, it could be used at once.

When the Water Supply is finished to Booth Lane, Malkins Bank, and Wheelock Heath, it will relieve a large district that is, at this time, very imperfectly supplied with usable water.

I have inspected a number of Dairies, and have seen that they have been white-washed, and that there was no disease.

You will notice that I have done more in the inspection of Canal Boats. Mr. Bladen, the Local Government Inspector, pressed me very much to look after them, as on the Trent and Mersey Canal there is a large traffic between Liverpool and the Potteries, which might bring infection into the district. I am pleased to say that I have not met any such cases in the boats which I have examined.

Cases reported to the Board	341
Zymotic Disease.—Scarlet Fever.....	65
Diphtheria.....	12, 3 deaths
Typhoid Fever	10
Puerperal Fever	1, 1 death
Continued Fever	3
Erysipelas	3
Houses fumigated.....	3
Visits made over the District	2,500
Letters received and answered	666
Nuisances abated	142
Canal Boats inspected	86
Under the Dairy Act	95
Lodging-houses	9
Samples of Water sent for Analysis	7
Water Certificates granted (Water Act, 1878).....	7
Summons issued	1
Overcrowding	3

WM. HILL,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

January 11th, 1895.

1894.

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Rural Sanitary Authority, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Rural District Council of Nantwich. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Concil or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "*Homoea*," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

1. *Systematic Inspection of District*.—During the year 1894 the systematic inspection of the District has gone on as in former years.

There is no doubt whatever that the direction of the visits of the officers of the Council has been very much influenced and guided by notifications of the incidence of infectious diseases. As I have said before, I repeat now, as a fact that should be considered, that we are in the Nantwich Union as well off, in regard to intimation of infectious complaints, as in my three other Union Districts in which the Compulsory Notification Act has been adopted.

2. *Account of Sanitary State of District*.—This is extremely satisfactory. The work of water supply has gone on in a way that has taxed the Clerk to the uttermost to furnish needful resources. Great strides have no doubt been made in improving the Sanitary state of the District, especially in the matter of water supply, but little has been done as to any general system of sewerage in the larger villages, and in some instances this is much required. A main sewer has been re-laid at Audlem, with proper gradients and manholes, and this will form a good starting point for a general system of sewerage. The sewage in the tanks at Calveley is now being treated with alumino-ferrie. Improvements generally in the more rural parts have been carried out, but there is still plenty of work to do of the same kind at scattered houses in the country.

3. I do not know of any cases of over-crowding in the District of the Council.

4. Very much attention has been given by your officers to cases of infectious disease which have been brought to their notice.

5. *Hospital Accommodation*.—Your Medical Officer greatly regrets to say that there is no hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease occurring in the District of the Council. In his mind there is not the slightest doubt that the Urban and Rural Councils of Nantwich should come together and work together in this matter. We have not suffered much hitherto; and it is not clear to your Medical Officer of Health that there is any evident urgent reason why matters should be hurried on in the way in which it is now proposed that they should be.

6. Legal Proceedings have been taken in only one instance, and that with reference to the exposure of a child suffering from Scarlet Fever, and the Authority agreed to a caution to the parent being given, and to the payment of the costs.

7. All Canal Boats have been systematically inspected throughout the year, and Mr. Davenport has furnished a most excellent report.

The General Death-rate for the year 1894 is 10·5, and the Zymotic Death-rate is under a unit per 1,000, or 0·68.

In regard to the Zymotic mortality, it is to be noted that five deaths are referred to Diphtheria. I am glad to find that, in harmony with convictions that I have long expressed, the word Diphtheria is now admitted to be a very misleading term. It expresses to my mind no terror; and I find that under the management of medical

attendants and your officers the disease never spreads. Why, then, should we seek under ultra-scientific direction for any general inoculation from the *serum* of horses in order to prevent our populations from the ravages of this disease?

In January, there were cases of Scarlet Fever in Shavington, and the schools were closed. There was a fatal case of Typhoid Fever in Wybunbury Township, and a case of Scarlet Fever in Spurstow, which made a good recovery, and there was no spreading of disease from the houses. In March, there were mild cases of Scarlet Fever in Bunbury and Wrenbury, and no spreading of the disease from the families first attacked. In June, very mild cases of Scarlet Fever commenced to be prevalent in Shavington, and from the impossibility of isolating the children, the disease continued till the end of September, it being difficult to say who was and who was not affected. Although generally very mild, two or three deaths took place. There was one prosecution for exposing a child with the disease, which is referred to under the head of "Legal Proceedings," and notices were posted throughout this and other Townships, warning persons of the penalties incurred under the Act through exposure of infected persons or things. In July, August, and September, there were cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever in Willaston, three of which proved fatal. In Bunbury, too, in August, there were cases of Scarlet Fever (probably imported); all, however, recovered. In December, there were some cases of Typhoid Fever at the Common, Bunbury, which recovered.

I have reserved to the last the *bonne bouche* of my Report. It is the remarkable disparity between old age and infant mortality, the great predominance being on the side of old age. The old age rate of mortality is 43·4 per cent. of all deaths; that is, only 6·6 per cent. less than half of all who have died have attained the age of 65 years and upwards; whereas only 19·2 of all deaths are of infants under one year of age. The position of these figures is frequently reversed. The proportion rate of infant mortality is the best guide to the sanitary condition of a population; and in regard to this the figures must speak for themselves. Facts are stronger than comments. Had the infant mortality been in excess I might have had much advice to give. But in regard to the excess of old age mortality I can only say, May all in this room go and do likewise; and may we all, in our time, aid in swelling this desirable excess. The proportion of deaths under 1 to 1,000 births is 91.

The usual Tables accompany the Report.

J. M. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health for the Mid-Cheshire Combined Sanitary District.

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Area in Acres, 104,932. Population (1891), 28,326.
Death-rates { General, 10·5 per 1,000 population.
Infants 91 per 1,000 Births registered.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

(B) Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of NANTWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.				Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.											
	Census 1891. (b)	Estimated to middle of 1894. (c)	Registered Births. (d)	Small-pox. 1		Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3	Membranous Group. 4	FEVERS.					Cholera. 10	Erysipelas. 11	Chicken-pox. 12	13
									Typhus. 5	Enteric or Typhoid. 6	Continued 7	Relapsing 8	Puerperal 9				
Entire District	28,326	26,915	658	..	8	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>including</i>				{ Under 5. 5 upwds.													
Crewe .....	..	..	292		4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nantwich .....	..	..	88														
Bunbury .....	..	..	101														
Wrenbury .....	..	..	177														

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: *No*. Since when? Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: *None*.

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of NANTWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																			Total.											
NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	(a)	(b)						(i)	FEVERS.										Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.		Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.		
		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)		(h)	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																			14	15
Entire District		307	60	20	12	21	72	122	{ Under 5. 5 upwards.	1	2	3	..	3	1	..	1	..	..	2	1	1	2	..	..	1	1	..	2	24	13	21	12	12	28	5	45	79
Crewe		144	35	9	7	15	35	43	{ Under 5. 5 upwards.	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	13	9	21	12	12	28	5	125	228
Nantwich		41	7	3	1	3	14	13	{ Under 5. 5 upwards.	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	21	31	44
Bunbury		47	9	1	..	1	10	26	{ Under 5. 5 upwards.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	7	3	1	7	8	10	10	10
Wrenbury		75	9	7	4	2	13	40	{ Under 5. 5 upwards.	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	27	39	
										1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	15		
										1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	60		

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average	1894.	General.		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
658	307	20	26·6	22·8	15·1	10·5	1·01	·68	122	60	43·4	19·2

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths, in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000.	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st.....	170	...	67	31	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	2	2	9	9
June 30th.....															
September 30th.....	71	...	32	11	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	2	...	8	1
December 31st.....	66	...	23	18	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	3	6

TABLE III.

Showing Population, Estimated, 1894; Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, Death-Rate; Deaths from Special Diseases, and at special ages, in entire Sanitary District, the Sub-Districts of Registration, and the individual Townships, in the year 1894; and compared with the average of former years.

[illegible]

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

DR. FOX,

MY DEAR SIR,—In accordance with your letter received last month, I beg to submit the following report under the several headings given.

Inspection of District.—Inspections in the various Townships have been carried out during the year 1894 in the above District, with the result that statutory notices with respect to 89 premises have been served.

New drainage has been laid at 42 houses. New privies and covered ashpits have been erected, or old ones altered, at 17 houses; other permanent sanitary improvements have been made at 13 houses, and various nuisances not included under other heads have been abated on 24 premises. In 47 cases the nuisances have either not as yet been abated or are in course of being abated, or are waiting re-inspection. A number of nuisances have been abated by arrangement.

Excrement Disposal.—The Council have scavenging contracts in Haslington, Willaston, Shavington, and Audlem, and there have been 2,515 inspections at premises in connection with these contracts during the year. The work has been generally well carried out. There are a number of houses at Barbridge that it would be very desirable to have scavenged, there being no room to deal with the excrement on the premises, and the tenants being chiefly boat-people, and the men frequently away, the closets, &c., often get into a bad state. I have been endeavouring to make some arrangement with farmers in the neighbourhood as to the disposal of the excrement, but have at present been unsuccessful.

Water Supply.—One hundred and sixty houses have been supplied with water from public mains during the year 1894. Nearly ten miles of mains have been laid, and up to the present time one hundred and three miles of water mains have been laid by the Authority, supplying 2,976 houses. The quantity of water consumed during the past twelve months has been 28,000,000 gallons, which (allowing for the houses taken within the Borough of Crewe) gives an average of 7 gallons per head of population supplied per day.

There have been 59 inspections of houses under the Public Health Water Act.

Plans, surveys, and estimates have been made for extensions of the water mains in Shavington, Burland, Bunbury, Minshall Vernon, and Edleston, and for the water supply of Weston, Bulkeley, and Cholmondeley Townships, all of which are before the Local Government Board, or have received their sanction. Plans, surveys, and estimates have also been made for the water supply of Wattenhall Township, and the water supplies of Calveley, Alraham, Bickerton, Baddiley, and other Townships are under consideration.

Samples of water from pumps at 12 houses have been taken and sent for analysis; one proved good and 11 bad.

Overcrowding.—Only two or three cases of overcrowding have been noted during the year, and these were abated on complaint.

All the cases were visited, and instructions and disinfectants given, and sulphur for stoving, &c., provided. Clothing, bedding, &c., in two instances were burnt, and the value of same allowed to the owners.

Hospital Accommodation.—There is no Hospital Accommodation in the Rural District.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Dairies and Cowsheds have been inspected as opportunity offered.

Slaughter-houses.—Slaughter-houses have been inspected, but no notices with respect to them served during the year. The Licensed Slaughter-houses are generally good, but the Registered Slaughter-houses are in many ways open to improvement.

Common Lodging-houses.—There has been only one Common Lodging-house in the District, and the tenant of it has now removed to Crewe, and the house is empty.

Canal Boats.—Besides casual inspections of Canal Boats, there have been full inspections of 39 boats, the details of which appear in the Journal. The different breaches of the Acts have been dealt with in each case, and the usual Annual Report sent to the Local Government Board. No Infectious Disease was found in any of the boats inspected. The improvement in the condition of the canal boat population appears to be maintained.

New Buildings.—Fifty-nine plans for New Buildings have been passed during the year, making a total of 1,645 plans of new buildings passed in the District since urban powers for new buildings were conferred on the Authority. There have been several inspections of each new building.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.—No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

Inspections have been made for the Boarding-out Committee, and Reports furnished. Parochial Committees have been attended. By no means least, is the work in connection with the management and supervision of the Water Works, which are so extensive; and there is work in connection with Sewerage Works; and a multitude of duties might be enumerated which it would be hardly possible to detail in such a report as this.

Yours faithfully,

February 5th, 1895.

JOHN ALD. DAVENPORT.

NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Rural Sanitary Authority, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Rural District Council of Northwich. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Concil or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homocea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

In proceeding now more directly to the Sanitary condition of the District of the Rural Council of Northwich, I am bound to say that many unfavourable features present themselves to view. But these arise from conditions over which a Sanitary Department has little control. I allude to the rapid development of large industries, involving the hasty erection of new houses, or the too frequent overcrowding of old ones. The hasty erection of new houses, though built according to the Bye-laws, often involves their premature occupation. This is a circumstance out of which many conditions injurious to health may arise.

In the year 1894 plans of as many as 154 new houses have been submitted to the Authority; and it cannot be thought that all these houses have been occupied at once without risk, especially when we consider that the Bye-laws offer an insufficient safeguard against what is called jerry-building. What great calamity might have happened if the larger Townships, which have so rapidly extended themselves, had not been provided with a public supply of pure water, it is impossible to say, but very possible to imagine.

Referring once more to the rapid development, especially of Chemical industries, a pollution of pure streams, previously unknown, seems to be an inevitable consequence which it is very difficult to deal with. The farmer, I fear, who suffers injury from this cause, receives very long-delayed protection, and even when he gets it, it is always insufficient, as the bias of the law is in the interest of the industry rather than of the farmer. This is an important matter which is bound to occupy very much of the time of the Council.

Bearing these adverse conditions in mind, we will now consider the Vital Statistics of the year 1894. I should have been grieved indeed if these had not been favourable, for the Registrar-General informs us that the General Death-rate, based on the mortality of 1894, was remarkable, being the lowest ever recorded.

The National Death-rate is 16·6, but the Death-rate of the District of the Northwich Rural Council is 13·0 exactly, being 3·6 per 1,000 lower than the Death-rate of the nation. It is remarkable, too, that the Registrar-General also observes that the Birth-rate in England and Wales in 1894 was 29·6, or the lowest Birth-rate ever recorded. This tallies with our experience, for the Birth-rate in this District was 28·2, as against a previous average of 33·1.

Proceeding onwards, it is further interesting to note that the General Zymotic Death-rate of the nation, being 1·76 per 1,000 population, that of the District of the Council is 1·33. Out of a total of 38 deaths, 25 are deaths referred to Whooping Cough and Measles, diseases not subject to Compulsory Notification, and therefore not approached aggressively by the action of the Authority. I therefore have preferred, and do prefer, to base a calculation of the Zymotic Death-rate upon the number of deaths referred to diseases of this character thus defined and restricted by the Act of Parliament.

Now, the number of Deaths referred to these diseases is 13, giving a Zymotic Death-rate of 0.64. Thus, though we have had 138 notifications of illnesses from Scarlet Fever, only 4, or 2.90 per cent., have proved fatal.

There are 9 notifications of Diphtheria, of which 1 has proved fatal. There are further 25 notifications of Typhoid Fever, from which disease there have been 7 deaths.

The systematic inspection of the District has been pursued with the usual vigour and regularity.

The Sanitary state of the District is generally satisfactory, and such faults as may be found would have reference to causes to which I have already alluded, namely, pollution of streams, evils arising from jerry-built and overcrowded houses, and defective water supply in some of the outlying Townships.

Plans of Waterworks for Oakmere and Delamere have been passed by the Authority, and, further, have been sent to the Local Government Board; and considerable disappointment has been felt that these plans were sent to the Local Government Board in June last, and yet no intimation has been received from them up to the present time as to their approval or disapproval. This delay is the more to be regretted as cases of Diphtheria are continually cropping up in these two Townships. I well remember that it was in the Township of Delamere that two fatal cases of Diphtheria, to my great astonishment, occurred in my first year of office, or in the year 1878.

Mooresbarrow and Sproston are Townships badly supplied with Water; but the probability is that they may find a sufficient supply from the Middlewich source when the Middlewich Waterworks are completed.

In reference to Excrement Disposal, all the larger Townships are scavenged under the security of a contract. These Townships are mostly arranged on what is called the Pail system.

In regard to a Local Government Board inquiry at Lostock Gralam, a singular and novel difficulty was put before the Township by the Inspector of the Local Government Board who was sent down to hold the inquiry. He was desirous, and reported to that effect, that the Township should be placed upon the Water-closet system. This costly innovation, and unnecessary as it was thought, was naturally resented by the Authority. A time-honoured usage attaches itself to the Dry system, which has over and over again received the sanction and approval of the Local Government Board. I suppose we must be prepared for changes in the way of suggested improvement from time to time; and the important fact for the Council to note is, that the Local Government Board appeared to approve the Inspector's report, and only agreed to sanction a continuance of the present Pail system in Lostock for three years. I myself can see insuperable difficulties in general, rapid, and costly transformations; but if the Council are convinced that improvement may be made in any department, in conformity with more recently acquired knowledge, I am sure that the Council will not hesitate to grapple with those difficulties.

Another interesting instruction was given to us at the Lostock Gralam inquiry. It had always been understood that when sewage was properly purified by Polarite, no purchase of land for the purpose of land filtration in addition was necessary. But we were informed, and I think the information was confirmed by the Local Government Board, that they will in future always require land treatment in addition to the use of Polarite.

It should be mentioned that in regard to the general scavenging, a great difficulty has been most seriously felt as to the harmless disposal of the collected filth. Suitable tipping places are not always easily found; but it is an abominable outrage when houses and roads are made to suffer from the malodoured stuff being placed too near them. And this has been a frequent source of complaint during the year.

During the year 1894, 192 notifications of Infectious Diseases were received. Of these, 138 were Scarlet Fever, 4 Puerperal Fever, and 16 Erysipelas. Very little interest attaches to these. It is very different in regard to 25 notifications of Typhoid or Enteric Fever. This is an important disease, with which the District has had little to do in former years. I can remember when twenty years ago, or thereabouts, there was a serious division of opinion amongst medical authorities as to the possible origin of Typhoid. There were those who thought that this disease might arise out of any conditions of dirt or filth, independently of there having been previous cases, or a singly

previous case. These were the followers of Dr. Murchison. On the other hand, there were those who thought that conditions of dirt or filth might exist, and no Typhoid Fever would arise, unless the germs of the disease were imported into it. These were the followers of Dr. Budd. I am disposed to think that for practical working purposes both may be assumed to be true, but with this qualification, that where the germs are present cases will spread with infinitely greater rapidity than where they are not. Thus in regard to the 25 cases of the year 1894, all, as to their acting cause, were connected with the mismanaged Scavenging Department. Here we had both dirt and the presence of germs. Two cases had been imported into Marston, and thus the collected excreta of the Township became infected. It was in this way that almost every person engaged in any way with the management of the scavenging became affected with the disease. Cases spread from one person to another. The poisonous influence was maintained for a long period. It became a public calamity, and the public mind was very unfavourably impressed.

In connection with this outbreak, attention was drawn to an insanitary property known as Red Lion Yard. This property has been now condemned.

But the cases in this Yard were only in persons who had some connection, near or remote, with the mismanaged scavenging.

We have filthy places in many parts of the District, but no Typhoid Fever; and the Marston outbreak would indicate most clearly that the germs of the disease must previously exist before the fever can make its appearance. In addition, the scavenger was a milk seller; and yet the general customers were not affected, but only those who took the milk from the premises. It seems an undesirable connection, the occupation of a public scavenger and that of milk farmer. But an inquiry was made into other places where the two occupations are combined, but in such a way that it was thought that no danger need be apprehended. Everything, so far as I know, was done to limit the spread of the outbreak; and my distinct impression is that drunkenness had as much to do with it as any other circumstance. It was very sad, for the mortality was excessive. Seven cases terminated fatally, being in the proportion of a mortality of 28 per cent.

The year 1894 will be marked by the fact that the Authority made themselves possessors of an Isolation Hospital. A little difference of opinion arose between the Medical Officer and the Authority as to the purposes for which this Hospital should be used. It was clearly designed for cases of Small-pox. Nothing is more inconvenient than the suddenness with which a case of Small-pox may be sprung upon us at any time. But nothing is more certain than that it always will be so. And there is another material fact equally certain, namely, that this Hospital, from its restricted accommodation, cannot contain a case of any other disease if a case of Small-pox were in it. Hence the Council, if they entertain the idea of affording Hospital accommodation for other infectious diseases, will give great enlargement to the present building. The cost of the Hospital and its outbuildings, as it exists at present, was £225. The site is rented for £12 a year.

Dairies and Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging-houses, and Canal Boats have been kept more or less under systematic inspection.

The Report of the Surveyor and Inspector accompanies my own, and from this further information will be derived.

The usual Tables accompany the present statement.

I submit also the Vaccination Returns for the years 1893-4, which as usual continue to be highly satisfactory, showing that out of 2,000 births, only 2, or 1 per 1,000, are returned as to which Vaccination is unaccounted for.

J. M. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health for the Mid-Cheshire Combined Sanitary District.

February, 1895.

Area in Acres, 54,703. Population (1891), 22,218.
 Death-rates { General, 13·0 per 1,000 population.
 { Infants, 138 per 1,000 Births registered.

(B) *Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of NORTHWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: *Yes*. Since when? *1891*. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: *Marbury*.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																								
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Total.	
Entire District	342	104	44	21	22	80	71	(i) { Under 5... 5 upwards..	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
including																															
Weaverham	127	35	15	7	6	36	28	{ Under 5... 5 upwards..		1	1					1					10			2			7		1	31	40
Northwich	139	49	21	9	11	29	20	{ Under 5... 5 upwards..	2			1					1			4	7					9	7	12	2	35	77
Over	39	10	2	3	1	10	13	{ Under 5... 5 upwards..						6						1			1			3	8		8	12	
Middlewich	37	10	6	2	4	5	10	{ Under 5... 5 upwards..						1							2	1				3	6	5	1	11	27

NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average	1894.	General.		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
763	345	38	33·1	28·2	15·3	13·0	·80	·64*	71	106	20·1	30·2

* This is only including compulsory notifiable diseases.

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths, in the four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000.	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st.....	104	...	30	26	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	2	1	9	3
June 30th	88	...	14	26	...	...	...	...	1	1	11	1	...	14	5
September 30th.....	75	...	15	17	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	3	...	8	3
December 31st	78	...	12	37	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	1	...	7	6

TABLE III.

Showing Population, Estimated, 1894; Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, Death-Rate; Deaths from Special Diseases, and at special ages, in entire Sanitary District, the Sub-Districts of Registration, and the individual Townships, in the year 1894; and compared with the average of former years.

Populations, Estimated, 1894.	REGISTRATION DISTRICTS AND TOWNSHIPS.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.			DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES, AND PHTHISIS.								Two GROUPS OF AGES.	
		Entire.	Rate per 1,000.	Entire.	Death-rate per 1,000.		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Deaths under One year of age.	Deaths at 65 yrs. and upwards.
					Av'age	1894.										
20,789	{ ENTIRE SANITARY DISTRICT	763	...	342	...	...	...	5	4	1	20	7	1	17	104	71
8,058	WEAVERHAM R.S.D.	269	...	127	...	...	...	...	1	1	11	...	...	9	35	28
512	Delamere .....	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
279	Eddisbury .....	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
387	Oakmere .....	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
505	Cuddington.....	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
1,761	Weaverham .....	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	4
...	Onston .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
531	Crowton .....	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
534	Acton .....	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
410	Little Leigh .....	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	2
2,295	Barnton .....	...	...	46	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	4	16	7
844	Hartford.....	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	5	5
7,069	NORTHWICH R.S.D.	320	...	139	...	...	...	5	3	...	7	6	...	4	49	20
1,683	Winnington .....	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	16	2
86	Cogshall .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
392	Comberbach .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
56	Marbury .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
961	Marston .....	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	4	...
1,229	Wincham .....	...	...	27	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	1	9	5
896	Lostock Gralam...	...	...	31	...	...	...	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	13	3
220	Peover .....	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
501	Allostock .....	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
357	Anderton .....	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
688	Leftwich .....	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	4	5
3,083	OVER R.S.D.	74	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	10	13
606	Marton .....	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
333	Darnhall.....	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
585	Little Budworth..	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
219	Winboldsley .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
173	Clive .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
1,143	Moulton .....	...	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	6	5
24	Eaton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2,579	MIDDLEWICH R.S.D.	100	...	37	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	10	10
670	Davenham .....	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	4
644	Rudheath .....	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
135	Whateroft .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
213	Bostock .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
204	Stanthorne.....	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
120	Kinderton (part) ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
196	Sproston .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	Croxton .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
203	Byley-cum-Yate- house .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
194	Lach Dennis .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

NORTHWICH UNION.

VACCINATION.

SUPPLEMENTAL FOR 1893.

Registration Sub-Districts.	No. of Births Returned	Success-fully Vaccinated	Insuscep-tible of Vaccination	Dead, Unvacci-nated	Postponed by Medical Certificate	Removals to other Districts (Officer apprised)	Removals to places Unknown	No. neither entered nor temporarily accounted for
Northwich	949	837	—	100	1	3	8	—
Over	517	461	—	48	3	2	1	2
Weaverham	357	321	—	35	—	1	—	—
Middlewich	269	230	2	26	6	—	4	1

JANUARY—JUNE, 1894.

Registration Sub-Districts.	No. of Births Returned	Success-fully Vaccinated	Dead, Unvacci-nated	Postponed by Medical Certificate	Removals to other Districts (Officer apprised)	Removals to places Unknown
Northwich	455	411	41	1	1	1
Over	244	220	17	5	1	1
Weaverham.....	162	144	15	2	1	—
Middlewich	137	123	9	5	—	—

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

I write my Report with your printed Annual Report for 1893 before me, and endeavour to make my Report for 1894 as near to your requirements as I understand them.

A tabulated statement of work done may not give any idea of results, but it is at least the base of operations, and is in that way put before you :—

Letters written having reference to Sanitary work	718
Statutory notices to abate nuisances at	371 houses
Summonses ordered to enforce notices	57
Samples of water analysed and dealt with	15
Plans of new houses approved	154
Plans of new streets approved	3

Plans of Waterworks for Oakmere and Delamere for obtaining water from the Liverpool mains have been before the Local Government Board since June last, and are still awaiting their approval, and much dissatisfaction is expressed at the delay, as the water is most sorely needed.

The Authority has been in an extraordinary difficulty in relation to the purification of sewage at Lostock Gralam, arising from the Local Government Board requiring that land should be acquired for that purpose, when, as a matter of fact, it was impossible to obtain any land, and while the matter was locked up in that way the nuisance at Lostock was appalling. Under these circumstances the Authority took the only course open to them, and resolved to pay for the work out of the rates, and have carried out the works so as to purify the Sewage by precipitation and filtration, and in such a manner that if land is ever acquired it will be the least allowable quantity and be supplemental to the present Works.

The work of the year has been largely in connection with Infectious Disease. The Brookside Hospital has been in use for the treatment of 6 cases of Typhoid Fever for a period of 24 weeks ; and the cases of Typhoid Fever at Marston, in connection with Notified Cases of Infectious Disease, have completely engrossed the time of the Inspector for nine months of the year.

The number of Houses in the District has been increased to 4,597, and of this number 1,866 are scavenged by the Contractors to the Council, and excremental disposal is manipulated on the farms of the Contractors ; the remaining number of houses are situate in the more rural portions of the District.

Of Common Lodging-houses there are none, but there are most serious cases of overcrowding in the Lostock District ; and although there seems so much need for houses, yet the firms of manufacturers and owners of land will not build a single house for their workmen ; and in this harvest-field for the speculating builder there is a strong tendency to jerry-building, against which the Bye-laws are no adequate safeguard.

The 17 Townships supplied with Water have enjoyed an uninterrupted service all through the year, and there has been an unusual extension of mains into the Northwich Urban District to supply the Union Workhouse with the Moulton water.

Under the "Canal Boats Act" 53 Boats have been structurally examined, 24 repainted or otherwise brought into conformity with the Regulations. There has been one summoned for overcrowding, and fined 19s. 6d. But as a rule the cabins are clean, and no case of Infectious Disease has been imported by the waterways of the District.

The Dairies Order, the Registration of Slaughter-houses, the Sewage Outfalls : These may be summarised as being attended to and maintained in successful operation by the ordinary routine of duties, and need no special mention.

Much has been done in the way of Supply of Water to Farm-houses in Sproston, and much has yet to be done.

The pollution of the River Dune by lime from Chemical Works at Middlewich is now engaging the attention of the Council.

H. J. BENNETT,

Surveyor and Inspector.

To Dr. Fox.

1894.

LYMM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Local Board of Health, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Urban District Council of Lymm. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Concil or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homoea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

These preliminary observations may seem somewhat pessimistic as applicable to Lymm. But what will the members of the Council say when I inform them that 18 out of 77 total deaths at all ages in the year 1894, or 23·6 per cent., are of infants who have failed to complete the first year of life? The causes of death are as follow :—

Gastritis	1	Pneumonia.....	5
Marasmus	2	Debility	3
Convulsions.....	4	Whooping Cough ...	1
Atrophy	1	Meningitis	1

A large majority of the deaths thus recorded must be considered as preventable deaths.

It is little known how rare an article of diet milk is in the households of the poor. Had this not been the case, many of these lamentable deaths would have been obviated. And yet, in the expansive breasts of every mother, how Nature teaches the obvious lesson !

For poor people to aver that they cannot afford milk is a palpable falsehood, when it is known that the cost of a glass of beer would furnish an average sized family with sufficient skimmed milk for an entire day's consumption; and the prejudice against skimmed milk is only comparable to a person refusing the lean of meat, the essence of its nutriment, because he cannot get any fat, which is only its condiment.

Sanitary work has been pursued in Lymm, in the year 1894, with the same energy and success as of old.

As will be seen from the Tables which accompany this Report, the Birth-rate for the year is 25·4 per 1,000 living population, and the general Death-rate 14·8.

The Zymotic Death-rate is under a unit per thousand, or 0·72. And yet Zymotic Diseases have been present in the Township, as is evidenced by the fact of there having been received eleven notifications of Scarlet Fever, two of Diphtheria, and two of Typhoid Fever.

In all these instances disinfectants have been supplied, inspection has been made, and proper precautions have been taken for the prevention of the spread of the particular disease.

The outlying portions of the District of the Council have not been neglected. Heatley is now provided with excellent means of sewerage; and the water mains (I fear at little remunerative profit to the Company) have been extended through Heatley and Statham.

The Milk Shops, Slaughter-houses, and Canal Boats have been systematically inspected. Of Common Lodging-houses, Lymm now has none.

Town Scavenging has been well attended to, as will appear from the annexed report of the Inspector: "Number of Privies and Ashpits scavenged, 2,213; number of loads removed, 758."

I should be glad to see a return of money value for so much manure distributed in surrounding farms. Farmers either get their manure here very cheaply, or they sadly under-estimate its value.

It must be placed on record that an effort was made to remove a block of houses adjudged by the Medical Officer of Health, and I think by the Board also, to be not only unfit for human habitation, but also incapable of being made so.

This effort was initiated under the direction of the "Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890." But difficulties in the way of equitably accomplishing so desirable an object bristled forth with such acuteness that even our learned and most zealous Clerk was intimidated, and the aim of the Board failed of accomplishment.

There is only one other matter to which I would direct the attention of the new Council, as a duty to be of necessity performed during their first year of office.

I have nothing but praise to give to the old Board for the most energetic way in which they struggled their very hardest in order to secure for Lymm an Isolation Hospital for cases of Small-pox, which disease tramps may at any time bring into our little community. Insurmountable difficulties, especially as to site, stood in the way. These difficulties must be resolutely dealt with and overcome by the new Council.

I need only remind the Council that they possess, under the Act, compulsory powers of purchase of land. However embryonic a form the Hospital may, in the first instance, assume, I deliver it as my conviction that the District is bound to have some provision of this nature.

The usual Tables accompany the Report.

Under the new "Factory and Workshops Act" we have now an additional Inspector of our Fustian-cutting Shops, though not a lady-inspector, as I advocated in a previous Report, and would still wish the Council to apply for.

Also, under the constitution of the Irwell and Mersey Joint Water Committee, we have an additional Board applying to us for information as to the character of the effluent from our capital sewage ground.

JOHN M. FOX.

January 8, 1895.

LYMM URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Area in Acres, 4,284. Population (1891), 4,995.
Death-rates { General, 13·5 per 1,000 population.
Infants, 12·6 per 1,000 Births registered.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

(B) Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of LYMM, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.												
	Census 1891. (a)	Estimated to middle of 1894. (b)	Registered Births. (c)		FEVERS.												
					1 Small-pox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued.	8 Relapsing.	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12 Chicken-pox.	13
Lymm Urban	4,995	5,600	142	{ Under 5. 5 upwds.	..	11	1	3	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: *Yes*. Since when? *1891*. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: *None*.

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of LYMM, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	(b) At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.		FEVERS.										Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Total.				
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.										Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	
Lymm Urban	77	18	9	3	2	30	15	{ Under 5... 5 upwards.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27 50

LYMM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average	1894.	General.		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
142	77	4	26·8	25·4	14·8	13·5	1·0	·72	15	18	19·7	23·6

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths, in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000.	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhœa.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st.....	39	...	5	12	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	2
June 30th.....															
September 30th.....	16	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December 31st.....	22	...	5	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...

LYMM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Statement.—Sanitary Department.

Number of sanitary visits recorded—

General	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
<i>re</i> infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Number of Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisances abated arising from defective drains, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Nuisances from defective privies and ashpits, which have been altered or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Number of privies and ashpits scavenged	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,213
Number of loads removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	758
Additional houses connected to water mains.										
Cases of overcrowding dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hospital accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dairies and Cowsheds: General supervision.										
Number of registered slaughter-houses (general supervision)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Common lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Canal boats inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Certificates for new buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Housing of Working Classes Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Legal proceedings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Supervision of sewers and sewage farm.										

(Signed)

J. MORT,
Inspector.

1894.

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Local Board of Health, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Urban District Council of Middlewich. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Concil or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

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There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

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The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homoea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

In determining the Vital Statistics of any locality, the most particular element of consideration, as constituting their basis, is the estimated population of the District. If the estimate be too high, the Statistics will be made to assume an unwarrantably favourable appearance; and if the estimate be too low, the reverse in consequence will ensue.

This observation applies particularly to Middlewich. A Medical Officer of Health has no access to the Rate-book, and is bound to act upon the information supplied to him. Still, a Medical Officer has an opportunity of forming an opinion of the correctness of the estimate supplied to him by the Statistics as they unfold themselves to view.

I may inform the Council that the Statistics of the year 1894 are the most remarkable and perplexing, as bearing upon the question of population, which ever came under my notice. For example, we are confronted with the extraordinary high Birth-rate of 43·0 per 1,000, which would distinctly suggest an under-estimate of population; and yet on the other hand we are confronted with the extraordinary low General Death-rate of 11·3, which would with equal force suggest an over-estimate of population. However, we must take the figures as we find them, and I can only congratulate the Council upon these two evidences of the health and vigour of the inhabitants of their District. I may say that I have taken the population as 4,500, which was the figure decided upon after discussion by the Board previous to the preparation of the Annual Report for the year 1893.

Passing on to the Zymotic Class of Diseases, it is most gratifying to find that only one death was registered as referred to this important group during the entire year. This was one death from Scarlet Fever in the first quarter of the year. It is only one above zero or nil, and represents the extraordinary low Zymotic Death-rate of ·22.

Though Middlewich has not been unfamiliar with even a lower Zymotic Death-rate than this. In reviewing sixteen printed Annual Reports, I find that in four out of the sixteen years, or 25·0 per cent., the Zymotic Death-rate is represented by a cipher.

But though the Zymotic rate of mortality is so low, it must not be thought that Zymotic diseases of a most formidable nature have not been present in Middlewich during the year 1894. Of these, the only one to which I shall direct attention is Typhoid Fever. Of this serious complaint seven notifications were received. These cases were thus distributed: three in Croxton Lane, one in Cemetery Road, one in Webb's Lane, and two in Pepper Street. We may dismiss the case in Webb's Lane, or Canal Side, as having been an imported one. It was a serious case, and Dr. Okell was kind enough to take me to see it. The recovery was very satisfactory. The three other cases to which I wish particularly to refer are the three cases which occurred in Croxton Lane. Here also, through the kindness of Dr. Melville, I was permitted to see the cases, which were all of a most serious character, and the investigation of their origin became a most interesting subject of inquiry.

In the first place the Water Supply came under suspicion, the well being imperfectly protected. This was speedily rectified, but yet the cases went on. During the summer weather no one could enter the backs of this block of houses without having the conviction forced upon him that the privies were an intolerable and most dangerous nuisance. They are constructed upon what is called the pail system. Now, the pail system is one very generally adopted, even in such towns as Manchester and Warrington, and has repeatedly received the sanction and approval of the Local Government Board. But it does not follow that the pail system is adapted to every locality, and it certainly is not adapted to the houses in Croxton Lane. The backs of the privies face due south, and the rays of the hot summer's sun beat upon them with tremendous force, there being only the interposition of a thin door between the pail and the fierce heat outside. The consequence is that fermentation of the heated contents is greatly promoted ; and I may honestly say that I never was in such foul-stinking closets in my life. Here was the cause of the cases of Typhoid Fever. I would rather a hundred times have the old primitive Cheshire cesspool adapted to these houses ; but I trust a way may be found to accommodate them with Fowler, Worth, or water-closets. At any rate, I should be sorry for another summer to be allowed to arrive whilst the closets are in their present condition. Nothing could be more praiseworthy than the unremitting attention of Mr. Furnston during the continuance of the outbreak. The Board also showed judicious and useful liberality in the supply of disinfectants.

I have allowed myself little time for an account of the general operations of the year. The one of most importance is that an adequate source of Water Supply has been discovered and developed ; and the Board has shown no lack of promptitude and energy in endeavouring to make this supply available to the town as soon as possible, under the able direction of Mr. Worth, the Surveyor ; the scheme also having been commended by Mr. Fowler, a water-engineer of the first rank. There has been the usual systematic inspection of the District ; and though there is much urgent work left for the Council to accomplish, yet the sanitary state of the District may be spoken of as fairly satisfactory.

I was unwilling to press additional expenditure upon the late Board whilst they had the Water Scheme in hand. But there is no doubt that the provision of an Isolation Hospital for cases of Small-pox will be taken in hand by the County Council under the new Act of 1893, unless the District Council determine to do something quickly in the matter. Every effort has been made in the past to form a combined scheme, but always attended with failure.

The Common Lodging-houses have been the objects of special inspection for obvious reasons during the year. The same remark applies to Canal Boats. Middlewich has now the appearance almost of a new town, and all the Sanitary difficulties have presented themselves which always attach to the rapid development of new industries. But I think these have been fairly grappled with.

The pollution of the River Croca has been perhaps the most serious evil connected with this industrial development. It would perhaps be better to say, instead of the word "pollution," the deposit in the stream of solid material. Here we have a more distinct violation of the Rivers Pollution Act of 1876, apart from any question of doubtful and contentious chemical analysis of the water. With this subject the Council will, without doubt, deal considerably but resolutely, so far as they find the requirements of the Act to be uncomplied with, or the interests of the District to be impaired.

The usual Tables accompany the Report.

J. M. FOX.

*The Grove, Lymm,
February, 1895.*

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Area in Acres, 237. Population (1891), 3,706.
Death-rates { General, 11·3 per 1,000 population.
Infants, 8 7 per 1,000 Births registered.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

(B) Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of MIDDLEWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.												
	(b) Census 1891.	(c) Estimated to middle of 1894.	(d) Registered Births.		Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Chicken-pox.	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4	5 Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued.	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal	10	11	12	13
Middlewich Urban.....	3,706	4,500	194	{ Age not Notified.	..	7	1	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	9	..	..

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: Yes. Since when? 1891. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: None.

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of MIDDLEWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	(b) At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.		FEVERS.										Total.												
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.		Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	
Middlewich Urban.....	51	17	8	1	1	8	16	{ Under 5... 5 upwards.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	25 26

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average	1894.	General.		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
194	51	1*	39·0	43·0	21·1	11·3	1·55	·22	16	17	31·3	33·2

* Only including Diseases of Compulsory Notification.

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths, in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000.	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st.....	26	...	7	9	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
June 30th															
September 30th.....	10	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December 31st	15	...	6	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	...

1894.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Local Board of Health, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Urban District Council of Nantwich. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Concil or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homoea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

The Vital Statistics of the Urban District of Nantwich for the year 1894 are rendered entirely exceptional by a widespread and more than usually fatal epidemic of Measles, which fell like a cloud upon the town in the fourth quarter of the year.

The registered number of Births is 250, and of Deaths at all ages and from all causes 161. These are equivalent to a Birth-rate of 33·3 per 1,000 living population, and a Death-rate of 19·4, the corresponding rates for England and Wales being 29·6 and 16·6. If we take out the Deaths from Measles the Death-rate of Nantwich would agree exactly with that of the nation. The number of deaths referred to the Zymotic class of Diseases is 41; but the number of Deaths referred to the list of diseases subject to compulsory notification is 2 only. The general Zymotic Death-rate attains the enormous dimensions of 5·61; but, again, deducting the Deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough, both unnotifiable diseases, the Zymotic Death-rate would be 0·26.

I suppose that the Local Government Board, who doubtless drafted the Compulsory Notification Act, left Measles out of the list, because they knew that so little could be done to prevent its spread; and, further, because it has not been proved that Measles depends for its origin upon insanitary conditions. In fact, the latest work on Medicine to which I have access says that Measles is contagious, but the cause of the contagion is unknown. And yet Measles has been known as a distinct disease to the Medical Profession and the civilised world since the 10th century. It was the great Rhazes, who died in the year of our Lord 923, and who was physician to a hospital in Bagdad, who first described Measles and Scarlet Fever as distinct diseases. Here is a lapse of nine centuries, and as little known about Measles at the end as at the beginning!

The same remarks apply to another unnotifiable disease, namely, Whooping Cough. I am not prepared to say that much or any advantage would, in the present state of our knowledge, arise from the notification of these diseases. They cause a greater number of deaths than any of the other Infectious Diseases, and yet the provision hitherto made to prevent them from spreading is absolutely none. Measles and Whooping Cough have, in my District, caused a hundred-fold more deaths than Small-pox. But there is another consideration. There is an amount of mischief to be attributed to these little-thought-of ailments, in the way of impaired general health, permanent lung disease, and even blindness and deafness, which positively receives no consideration; and preventive medicine, except in the pursuit of measures of general sanitation, has done nothing to control these complaints.

Is the Medical Profession to blame, or are the people, who are entirely apathetic?

Can this be because the people feel no call to co-operate to put down diseases which affect only young people?

There is one consoling consideration. Measles is a disease which has little or no power of retaining its vitality or force of infection outside the body.

When an infected house has got rid of the disease by death or recovery, there need be no apprehension of its re-appearance. Disinfection is absolutely unnecessary. If

Nantwich is at the present moment free from bodies infected by Measles, the disease will not be heard of again until there is an importation of fresh cases, or fresh cases arise *de novo*. Bacteriologists have hitherto failed to isolate the organisms of Measles and Whooping Cough. Their existence cannot be doubted; but, as I have said, their vitality is of the lowest type, and does not lurk or linger behind in rooms and dwellings and clothing, like the organisms of Cholera, Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria.

What it is of the most practical importance to know is that Measles is associated with cold, and demands the rigorous enforcement of warmth of the entire body. It is what may be called a catarrhal form of disease. Had people observed generally the enforcement of warmth of the body of their sick ones, as no doubt they were told to do, I can have no hesitation in saying that the mortality arising from the recent epidemic would have been greatly less than it was. Thus in 25 out of the 33 deaths referred to Measles, or 75·5 per cent., I find Bronchitis or Pneumonia added to the Death Certificate. In fact, I was told by the medical men of the town, that it was a very mild attack generally of Measles, and the fatality was due to complications with Brouchitis and Pneumonia, caused by reckless and inconsiderate exposure. Showing the connection of Measles with catarrhal diseases, I may mention that in the first *three* quarters of the year only *four* deaths of children under five years of age were referred to Bronchitis and Pneumonia; whereas in the last quarter, *nine deaths* of children of the same age are ascribed to these diseases. Four in three quarters without, and nine in the one quarter with Measles. The ages of those who died are as follows:—

Under one year	7, or 21 per cent.
One year and under two...	16, or 48 per cent.
At three years of age	3
At five years of age	5
At seven years of age	1

And there is one adult death of a person thirty years of age.

The danger of attack from this complaint decreases rapidly with accession of years. But when an adult is taken with it in a serious form, it should be regarded as a very dangerous disease. There is little fear of a second attack of Measles, the first giving security against further liability. But to this rule I have known many exceptions.

In the recent outbreak the first death was registered on the 28th September, and the last on the 21st November.

The disease showed no affection for any particular locality, but seemed to spread itself impartially throughout the town. Were I to mention the parts where deaths occurred, I should have to name to the Council nearly every street, lane, and row included in Nantwich, good and bad houses alike. The first death was registered from Hospital Street, and the last from Pillory Street. Of course the schools were closed for a period of three weeks. But there is always this difficulty in dealing preventatively with Measles, namely, that the most infectious stage of the disease is that immediately before the eruption appears, and therefore before the disease is recognised. There is also a very long period of incubation. For example, if a healthy child contracts the disease from an infected one, it would be at least fourteen days before the eruption of Measles would appear, and the disease be known to be Measles. I repeat again that none of this large mortality can be associated with insanitary conditions.

I am not aware that a single case was found in any of the Common Lodging-houses, which were diligently inspected from day to day by Mr. Gentry.

I think we may dismiss from our minds the slight alarm that there was towards the end of the year about Diphtheria. Only 4 notifications of this disease in the year 1894 were received, and only 1 case terminated fatally. Thus, two elements which used to be unfailing characteristics of the disease were lacking—one, its terrible fatality, and another its almost universal tendency to become epidemic. I do not know of a single instance in which two cases occurred even in one house.

There were 31 notifications of Scarlet Fever, but only 1 death, or in the proportion of 3·24 deaths to 100 non-fatal sicknesses.

It should be noticed that 50 deaths, or 31·1 per cent., were of infants who failed to complete the first year of life. This is not quite a satisfactory feature, though I do not believe that this large infant mortality is due, or has been due, to insanitary conditions.

As I have said already, 7 died from Measles and 9 from Bronchitis. Ten of these deaths are referred to Convulsions, 2 to Inanition, 4 to Whooping Cough, and 4 to Marasmus or Wasting Debility.

These early deaths belong to social rather than to sanitary conditions. The principal causes will be found to be insufficient clothing and improper exposure (Bronchitis and Measles), improper and insufficient food (Convulsions and Inanition), bad management, neglect, early marriages, and debility of mothers (Marasmus and Premature Birth). These social evils should be known to and corrected by other agencies than that of the District Council, especially Schoolmasters, Ministers of Religion, and visitors amongst the poor. It is sad for the poor to be thus early robbed of their offspring. They have so few pleasures, and the birth of a child must be the greatest. But for a babe to be born only to die must be a source of terrible grief. Nor is this all ; but I must not enlarge.

I have thought it my duty to say so much upon the subject of Vital Statistics, that I have left myself little time or space for an account of the general Sanitary state of the District. The work of the year 1894 has been of a routine character, but it has been steadily performed. There is doubtless much work in the way of Sanitary improvement, to which the new Council will give their earnest attention.

The system of Excrement Removal receives Mr. Gentry's attention, not only by day, but by night also. There are 850 pails in the town, and a scavenging of these without nuisance must be an undertaking of great labour ; but it represents the safety of the town.

The Water Supply has proved fairly adequate throughout the year. Its quality and appearance cannot always be greatly applauded.

The Sewers have been in some places enlarged, and in others their ventilation improved by means of additional man-holes and up-ventilating shafts.

A lengthy Report was presented on the subject of the desirableness of the Board making themselves owners of a Public Abattoir. I believe the Board were convinced of the soundness of my arguments, for they ordered the Report to be printed ; and they were also familiar with the very unsuitable situations of some of the Private Slaughter-houses. But I am glad to say that since this discussion took place there has been a manifest improvement in the management of the Private Slaughter-houses, as to the prompt removal of offal, &c. There is no reason why slaughtering premises should be unhealthy or unsavoury. Indeed, there is every reason for the direct opposite. A place for the preparation of meat should be as sweet as places for the storage of milk. All depends upon a strict compliance with the Bye-Laws ; and it is because the Bye-Laws never are complied with, and for other reasons, that I have recommended a Public Abattoir.

The Common Lodging-houses have been kept in a most orderly and almost attractive condition, owing to the incessant vigilance of Mr. Gentry.

The most earnest interest was exhibited by Mr. Harvey, the late Chairman, in endeavouring to effect a combination with the Rural District Council of Nantwich for the purpose of securing an Isolation Hospital for cases of Small-pox. But I regret to say that these efforts have not been crowned with complete success. At any rate, a suitable site has been decided on. This is a great step in advance. The land is already the property of the District Council. It will be seen that the Medical Officer of the County Council, in his Report on Isolation Hospitals, 25th January, 1895, naturally recommends a combination of the Urban and Rural District Councils for this object. But this is only a recommendation, and is by no means compulsory upon either Council.

The usual Tables accompany the Report.

JOHN M. FOX.

February, 1895.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Area in Acres, 703. Population (1891), 7,412.
 Death-rates { General, 19·4 per 1,000 population.
 Infants, 20 0 per 1,000 Births registered.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

(B) Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of NANTWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.		
	Census 1891.	Estimated to Middle of 1894.	Registered Births.		Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	are Districts and Epidemics
(a)	(g)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	
Nantwich Urban	7,412	7,500	250	{ Under 5. 5 upwds.	..	31	4
				

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if

ory in the District: Yes. Since when? 1891. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the not within the District, state where it is situated: None.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
(a)	(g)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(h)	(i)
Nantwich Urban	161	50	32	8	5	36	30
including							
Workhouse	25						{ Under 5. 5 upwds.

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.													
FEVERS.										Total.			
Small-pox.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	82	79	
Scarlatina.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria.	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	31	47	
Membranous Croup.	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus.	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric or Typhoid.	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued.	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing.	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal.	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera.	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas.	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles.	12	29	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough.	13	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	14	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever.	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ague.	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis.	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy.	18	13	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Disease.	19	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injuries.	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All Other Diseases.	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of NANTWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average.	1894.	General.		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
250	161	41	30.0	33.3	18.0	19.4*	1.10	5.61†	30	50	18.6	31.1

* Corrected for Workhouse.

† From Compulsory Notifiable Zymotics, rate = 0.26.

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000. *	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st	58	15.4	16	18	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	3	5
June 30th															
September 30th	36	19.2	9	10	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	4	1
December 31st	67	35.7	5	22	...	...	...	31	...	1	...	...	1	33	1

* Not corrected for W. H.

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Dear Sir,—There have been 15 new houses built, all of which are put on the pail system, and I have had 22 old closets and cesspools pulled down, and these, also, are now on the pail system.

Owing to the unsatisfactory state of the main sewer in the Hospital Street, a length of about 200 yards of 8in. pipes has been taken up, and 12in. pipes put down, with a better fall; and five man-holes made in the street, so as to be better able to inspect, and to flush out the drain when necessary; and from each of these man-holes a 4in. ventilator is carried from it up the adjoining wall.

Two man-holes are also made in the Beam Street main sewer, and ventilators have been fixed up from the sewers in different parts of the town. The inhabitants living in the Welsh Row were very much annoyed a short time back by a bad smell getting into their houses, which, upon close inspection, I found proceeded from a skin-yard. The nuisance has been abated, and nothing is now complained of. I make frequent visits to the two Tanneries, and the filter beds are working fairly well; and every now and then I take samples of the fluid at the outfalls for the Board's inspection.

I visit all the Slaughter-houses weekly, and during the last year there has been a decided improvement as regards the removal of offal from these premises.

As to the Lodging-houses, I have visited them daily during the past year, and have made nine midnight visits through the bedrooms, and I am pleased to say that I have found everything satisfactory, and the Bye-Laws observed, and that there has not been one single case of infectious disease in any of the houses.

I have also during the year systematically inspected the Cowsheds and Dairies, of which there are 23 within my District.

There are also five Settling Tanks on the main sewers to intercept the solid matter, which I clean out about once a month.

About 230 yards of new water mains have been put down, and several extra valves have also been fixed so as to prevent, and also detect, waste of water.

As Canal Boat Inspector, during the year I have examined 58 Boats, two of which I condemned as unfit to be used as dwellings; and in November Mr. Brydon, H.M. Chief Inspector, examined my Diary, and expressed himself satisfied with what I had done during the year.

HERBERT GENTRY, Sanitary Inspector.

To Dr. Fox.

1894.

NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Local Board of Health, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Urban District Council of Northwich. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Concil or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

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I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homoea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

My geographical knowledge may be limited, but I do not know of a more undeservedly abused district than that of the Northwich Urban District Council in the civilised world.

In regard to this statement, let me at once inform the Council as to the general result of Sanitary procedure as indicated by the Vital Statistics of the year 1894.

During the year 1894 there were registered 650 Births in the district of the Urban District Council, which is equivalent to the very high Birth-rate of 38·5 per 1,000 population.

During the same period there were registered 231 Deaths, at all ages, and from all causes, which is equal to an annual Death-rate of 12·8 per 1,000.

This represents what is called a natural increase of population of upwards of 50 per cent. Why slander and abuse old Northwich when it has such a record as this?

But let us look now at the Zymotic Death-rate. During the twelve months of 1894 there were registered eight deaths from all the important class of diseases made subject to Compulsory Notification.

It would, in my opinion, be entirely justifiable for me to end my report here; for anything more satisfactory, both to the administrative Council and its officers, can never be placed on record. We can all remember that when we were at school we went through a process in arithmetic of what was called "proving" the sum. The proof of all sanitary problems lies in the Vital Statistics of each recurring year; and these, as all the old members of the Board will know, have been placed on continuous record for 17 years.

I regret to say that 30 deaths are referred to Whooping Cough, 29 of which occurred under the fifth year of age.

I regard this as a great calamity. Under these 30 deaths much very painful suffering is signified. There are those who think that our increase of population is advancing too rapidly. I am not of that way of thinking. It should never be a temptation to us to try to advance the good of our country by doing violence to the holiest feelings of nature. With this view I should of course be thankful if it were in my power to do anything to prevent mortality and suffering from Whooping Cough and Measles. The birth of an infant must be one of the few joys of a poor man; and to have its life ruthlessly taken away from him must be a terribly bitter deprivation.

1. *Systematic Inspection of District.*—This has been faithfully pursued under the management of myself and my assistant officers, Mr. Brooke and Mr. Potts. I find in my journal that upwards of 300 visits have been paid, and I believe in every instance with distinctly beneficial results.

2. The Sanitary state of the District I regret to say is not marked by a presentation everywhere of favourable features. But I gladly point to a progressive improvement which has steadily been accomplished throughout the year. Old members of the Board will remember when Dr. Spear made an inspection of the District. He was shocked at

much that he saw ; but I may say that everything which he could not help but condemn is now entirely remedied.

3. The Scavengers have, through the Clerk, given a good account every fortnight of their work, the sum total of which would reach into thousands of pail and privy emptyings. In this work lies the salvation of the health of the town. But there are reasons outside which make me from year to year less enamoured of what is called the Pail System.

4. I could most earnestly wish that it were in my power to give a more completely satisfactory account of the Town Water Supply. As to its purity there can be no question ; and the Wade Brook source supplies valuable and very remunerative purposes.

5. Lodging-houses have been very particularly watched over. When there is the slightest fear or apprehension of Small-pox being brought by some tramp into our well-vaccinated and protected District, I continue to make the incessant supervision of Lodging-houses a most serious and important duty.

6. I have a report from the Inspector, Mr. Potts, as to his action under the Compulsory Notification Act of Infectious Diseases which is so voluminous that I dare not trouble the Council with even a summary of it. I must ask the Council to take my word for it, that it represents a very good year of work, much of which has been under my own inspection.

7. I am not sure that our Isolation Hospital accommodation would be considered generally satisfactory. But whether it be so or not we have done perfectly well up to now, and, so far as I know, have suffered no loss. Our Hospital was provided for cases of Small-pox. When Small-pox is rampant in the country, there is a universal scare. But I may ask why should it be so when the disease is so mitigated and modified as it has been proved to be by almost fifty years of Sanitation and Vaccination? These are protective measures which should for ever disarm the public mind of panic or scare in regard to Small-pox.

8. Dairies, Cowsheds, and Slaughter-houses have been carefully looked after ; and it has been made a special effort to see that the Bye-laws in every instance have been duly observed.

9. Canal Boats have been inspected, and I have to thank Mr. Brydon, H.M. Inspector, for his very valuable assistance.

10. The report of the Surveyor will show with what rapidity new buildings have been erected in the district of the Council.

11. The old Board, now I suppose deceased, will bear me witness how anxiously I have endeavoured to assist them in putting into force various sections of the "Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890." But we have utterly failed in attaining any useful result. I am certain that the effort has been sincere on my part, and I am equally certain that the effort has been sincere on the part of the late Authority. But, though we have the assistance of the most astute Clerk in the world, we have done nothing ; and the Act remains in our hands practically a dead letter.

12. Legal proceedings have been twice taken in regard to cases of diseased meat. In both cases convictions were obtained, and fines imposed. In one instance there was an appeal to the Quarter Sessions at Knutsford, but the decision of the Northwich magistrates was confirmed.

The usual Tables accompany the Report.

JOHN M. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health for the Mid-Cheshire Combined Sanitary District

January, 1895.

NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Area in Acres, 4,990. Population (1891), 14,914.
Death-rates { General, 12·8 per 1,000 population.
Infants, 17·8 per 1,000 Births registered.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

(B) Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of NORTHWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.												
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.	Registered Births.		1	2	3	4	FEVERS.					10	11	12	13
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal				
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	5	6	7	8	9	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Chicken-pox.	
Northwich U. ....(H)	14,914	17,000	650	{ Under 5. 5 upwds.	5	44	2	..	..	13	..	..	5	..	13	..	..
including Weaverham.....	..	..	29						..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: Yes. Since when? 1891. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: *Marquee and Old Engine Room.*

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of NORTHWICH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i) { Under 5. 5 upwards.	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																					
	At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.		FEVERS.																					
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Northwich U.	231	116	50	11	16	91	47	Under 5. { 5 upwards.	..	4	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	29	..	..	..	..	28	..	2108	166
including Workhouse	16	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	7	69	165	

NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average.	1894.	General.*		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
650	231	38	38·8	33·5	21·2	12·8	1·52	·47	47	116	20·3	50·0

* Corrected for W. H.

TABLE II.

*Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths
in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.*

[illegible]

SUB-INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

SUB-INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

NORTHWICH DISTRICT COUNCIL,

8th January, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—The present Annual Report has many pleasing features—features that should give the utmost satisfaction to all who have an interest in the sanitation of the town, and especially to the officers and members of the Northwich District Council.

Infectious Disease, that has been so prevalent in other years, and in other districts, has been reduced this year to about a third of its usual amount. The scourge of Small-pox has five times visited Northwich, and that in the worst parts of the town—the most crowded part, where disinfection seemed almost impossible; yet it was each time nipped in the bud, and no spread of the disease occurred.

When making our Annual Report we should take into consideration the state of the weather during the past year; the close, warm, and sultry weather we have had causing sudden decay and putrefaction of vegetable matter. If this is not sharply looked after we have foul gases, from which most of our diseases arise. But compare 1893 with 1894: the former registered 186 cases of infectious disease, whilst the latter registers 70. This alone should speak for the sanitary state of the town.

The following is a list of the Sanitary work done during the past year:—

Systematic Inspection.—There are three Wards in the Northwich District, and every part of each of these Wards receives a visit once at least every six weeks throughout the year. On these visits verbal notices are given and carried out, filthy premises are cleaned, and the dirty habits of the people are to a certain extent checked. These improvements are mostly lost to history, as I do not keep a record of them.

Nuisance.—Notices for the abatement of Nuisance have been served on 75 persons. These consist of defective ashpits, pails, drains, and closets. Repairs without notice: Forty closets pulled down and rebuilt, 76 old privies put on the pail system, and the old cesspools done away with. There have been a large number of ashpits repaired and covered; long lengths of drains opened, cleaned, and relaid; also long lengths of channels laid down.

Excrement and House Refuse.—The Scavengers have received 505 notices for the removal of House Refuse. These have mostly been promptly attended to, and undelayed attention to this department saves the town many times from fevers and other diseases.

Water Supply.—Mr. Brooks will perhaps report on this and New Buildings.

Infectious Disease.—I have received 70 notifications of Infectious Disease, as follows: Scarlet Fever, 44; Typhoid, 13; Small-pox, 5; Diphtheria, 3; Puerperal, 3; Chicken-pox, 1; Erysipelas, 1. Each of these cases had my attention at once, with disinfection promptly supplied, and when the cases were better, each room fumigated, and the premises thoroughly cleared out and disinfected. This entails a large amount of work on the Inspector, if he properly looks after the cases when notified.

Small-pox.—Four cases treated by the Board, and one taken to the Workhouse, where he died. The first three cases came from Salford, and were taken to Lodging-houses in Church Street. Two out of the three were confluent, but each case was better and out in four weeks. I had each house closed for 14 days, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and most of the clothes destroyed. The last two cases were in a better neighbourhood, but I had each house closed, and put the people in quarantine, thus stopping all chance of the spread of the disease. I have been several times asked how our patients get over the Small-pox so soon; this I can only say is due to plenty of pure fresh air, cooling drinks, and a fair amount of cool, fresh fruit, with plenty of strong, nourishing food in such quantities as the patient can retain, and as soon as possible get them into a warm bath, with plenty of Jeyes' disinfecting fluid. This takes off the old skin and helps the new at the same time, killing the germ of the disease. This at first sight may seem

very expensive, but is not so : the last five cases cost Northwich £73. 13s. This includes all expenses and compensation for damage to property, as well as things destroyed. But nothing is said of the danger to the Medical Officer or Inspector of catching the disease themselves.

Hospital.—This at present consists of a large room at Wade Brook, and a large marquee. The room is now well ventilated, and put in good repair ; this, with the marquee, would accommodate six or seven patients without any crowding.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These have been visited and inspected every three months, and lime-washed twice during the year, according to Act.

Slaughter-houses.—These have been inspected once each month through the year. Three have been altered and repaired, and most of them have been lime-washed four times during the year.

Common Lodging-houses.—These have been visited periodically during the year. There has been no infringement of the Lodging-house Act. They have mostly been kept in clean and good order.

Canal Boats.—There have been several inspections of these boats, and the owners called upon to paint and otherwise clean and repair them.

There have been no legal proceedings during the year for any Sanitary work. Mr. Brook has had a bad meat case just over and won it, even when the defendant appealed against the magistrates' decision.

Yours obediently,

CHARLES POTTS,

Sub-Inspector.

To DR FOX.

SANDBACH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Local Board of Health, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Urban District Council of Sandbach. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Council or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homoea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

Sandbach is distinctly a salubrious place. Its atmosphere is bright and invigorating—qualities which are conducive to health, long life, and cheerfulness. It is situated at such a distance from industries that the impurities of smoke and emanations from works rarely find access to its atmosphere. The old factories in its own precincts are now, and have been for many years, still and silent. It is a pity, surely, that it should be so, but while this interval of rest endures a higher purity of atmosphere is enjoyed.

I know of no town in which the advance in Sanitary knowledge and institutions has shown a more equable correspondence in the improvement of its Vital Statistics.

Thus, in the first year of our record, 1878, we begin with a general Death-rate 23·5, and a Zymotic Death-rate 8·6 ; and we finish in the year 1894 with a general Death-rate of 14·6, and a Zymotic Death-rate of 0·33. I have drawn up a Table showing the number of deaths, the general Death-rates, the number of Zymotic deaths, and the Zymotic Death-rates; also the number of deaths from Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever in all the years from 1878 till 1894 :—

DEATHS AND GENERAL AND SPECIAL RATES FOR PAST 17 YEARS.

Years.	All Deaths.	General Death-rate.	Zymotic Deaths.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Deaths from Scarlet Fever.	Deaths from Typhoid Fever.
1878	125	23·5	44	8·6	17	10
1879	110	20·5	24	4·47	17	..
1880	95	17·4	10	1·82	..	1
1881	71	12·9	1	0·18	..	..
1882	94	17·0	7	1·26	..	1
1883	107	19·2	17	3·05	11	1
1884	135	22·5	35	6·30	31	1
1885	92	16·4	6	1·07	1	..
1886	88	15·7	1	0·17	..	..
1887	94	16·6	12	2·12	2	..
1888	85	14·9	..	..	..	..
1889	106	18·8	13	2·31	..	..
1890	103	18·1	13	2·28	..	..
1891	98	16·8	2	0·34	..	..
1892*	131	21·8	7	1·16	2	..
1893	91	15·1	4	0·67	1	1
1894	88	14·6	2	0·33	..	..

* Influenza year. Influenza deaths 11·4 per cent.

In the first eight of this group of years it will be seen that the number of deaths from Scarlet Fever was 77, whilst in the second nine years it is only 5. Also in regard to

Typhoid Fever, in the first half of this history the number of deaths referred to Typhoid Fever is 14 ; whereas, in the second half, plus an additional year, it is only 1.

Now, statistics of groups of eight years compared one with another are of much more value and significance than those of one year compared with its predecessor. A nine years' continuous record of improvement implies endurance, whereas those of a single year may be accidental and transient.

I have no doubt that the contemplation of this Table in its entirety will be interesting to Members of the Council. It will be found that there was a very high Death-rate so lately as in the year 1892, but this was accounted for by the extraordinary prevalence and fatality of an exceptional disease—now again, unfortunately, re-appearing—namely, Influenza, to which complaint alone 11·4 per cent. of the entire mortality of that year was ascribed.

In other respects I will leave the Table to speak for itself to the eye and to the mind as to the Sanitary progress that has been made. It used to be thought and said that Scarlet Fever became epidemic in every five or six years. But it is now ten years since anything like an epidemic of Scarlet Fever was seen in Sandbach.

Another notable feature in the Vital Statistics of Sandbach is the general preponderance of Old-age deaths over Infant deaths. Two years ago the Local Government Board fixed the Old-age starting-point at 65 years instead of 60. I was afraid that this addition of five years might interfere with our advantageous position. But this is not so. In the year 1894 the percentage of deaths at 65 years and upwards to deaths at all ages is 30·8, whilst the percentage of Infant deaths is 23·8.

The Zymotic Death-rate is 0·33 per 1,000 population. This is remarkably low, being only the third of a unit per 1,000. But it should be lower—even a cipher. The number of deaths is 2, and they are both due to Measles. Now, there is an Act of Parliament in which all the more serious Zymotic diseases, and all those which may be associated with insanitary conditions, and may be considered amenable to Sanitary treatment, are scheduled. Measles is not in this category. From all the serious Zymotic diseases scheduled by Parliament, Sandbach has not a single death in the year 1894, and, therefore, I am justified in saying that the Zymotic Death-rate for Sandbach in that year is *nil*.

My Report up to now appears almost like a romance. But it is not so ; and the Council and the Community must strictly observe that every fact that I have hitherto brought forward is derived from the unerring returns of registration.

1. There has been no neglect in the systematic Inspection of the District.

2. In regard to the Sanitary condition of the District I would refer the Council to the excellent Report of our Surveyor (Mr. Wood), which I can corroborate in every particular. I may state for the instruction of the Council that the Local Government Board have changed their minds in regard to what is called the Pail System. This system they used to approve and recommend. But lately, at a Local Government Board inquiry, at Lostock Gralam, an endeavour was made by the Inspector who was sent down to hold the inquiry to condemn the whole of our pails, and to place the whole Village upon the Water-closet system. This proceeding the Local Authority and ratepayers naturally and universally resented ; and it was only by a strong representation, made up very much of extracts from Reports, and not remote ones, presented by Inspectors of the Local Government Board advocating, or, at least, approving, the Pail System, that we obtained a reprieve. But the reprieve was only to extend over three years. Should this action on the part of the Local Government Board imply that in three years' time all our towns and villages supplied with water must have their privies converted into Water-closets, the amount of expense and dissatisfaction throughout the country will be incalculable. I suppose that we must be prepared for steps in advance made to go hand in hand with our increasing Engineering and Sanitary knowledge. But changes now are coming so rapidly and so frequently that we ask in bewilderment where we are, and where we shall be ?

3. The disposal of excrement has, during the year 1894, been more successful than usual, under the capital management of Mr. Wood and the appreciation of this kind of manure by the farmers and market-gardeners of the District. I would call attention to the significant remark of Mr. Wood, in his Report, that the " result to the crops has been

good in all cases." The amount of money value realised has been £137. 4s. 9d. Mr. Wood says this is the largest sum that he has ever before received in any one year for nightsoil.

The sum received last year for this commodity was £106, showing the considerable increase of £31. 4s. 9d.

4. The Town Water Supply continues to give satisfaction, which increases year by year. So far as I can understand there are only 17 houses to be coupled up with the Water Mains in the Town, and 78 in an outlying District where the mains have only been recently laid. The community will be glad to know that the consumption of the water is so general that the revenue derived from the Water-charges will soon be equal to, if not in excess of, all expenses thereby incurred.

5. There has been no Overcrowding in the District during the year 1894, or at any rate none was discovered or reported. The late Board very properly insisted upon three bedrooms at least being shown on every plan of new houses, and many of the old houses are being altered so as to bring them into conformity with this regulation.

6. I will say nothing further about the provision of an Isolation Hospital than that the one which Sandbach now has, seemed to satisfy the requirements of the Medical Officer of the County Council, and he has no further suggestion to make to us.

7. The Slaughter-houses in the District of the Urban Council cannot be considered satisfactory. The first and most important necessity for an approved Slaughter-house is a suitable site. In order to secure this, though a public Slaughter-house should be in connection with the water supply and the sewer, it should be removed to sufficient distance from houses, thoroughfares, and public observation.

Now, it is in this respect that the Slaughter-houses of Sandbach, especially two of them, are very much at fault indeed. I do not think that the manurial odours that have been charged upon one of them belong to it at all, but to adjoining premises so near that these and the Slaughter-house premises appear as one.

It should be borne in mind that Slaughter-house premises should not be a nuisance according to the common meaning of the word nuisance. Why should not the atmosphere surrounding our fresh meat, hung up in order that it may acquire its proper set and bloom, be as sweet as the atmosphere of our dairies and milk-shops? All depends upon a proper observance of the Bye-laws, which enjoin a prompt removal after slaughtering of blood and offal and all decomposing matters. I am bound to say that frequent cautions have been given to the butchers in this respect, and there has been considerable improvement in consequence. But I should greatly desire to visit these places in company with the Sanitary Committee of the Council, and confer with them as to whether any further steps should be taken, and, if so, what steps.

8. The Common Lodging-houses, with the exception of Peover's, are the most unsuitable buildings for their purpose that could be found in Sandbach. But at all times of my visits they have been found clean and in good order.

In conclusion, I beg to congratulate the old Local Board that they have been able to hand over to the new Council a District in such a satisfactory condition as is indicated by this very favourable Annual Report.

The usual Tables accompany the Report.

J. M. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health for the Mid-Cheshire Combined Sanitary District.

February, 1895.

Area in Acres, 2,694. Population (1891), 5,824.
 Death-rates { General, 14·6 per 1,000 population.
 { Infants, 11 0 per 1,000 Births registered.

(B) *Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of SANDBACH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.				Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.												
	(a)	(b) Census 1891.	(c) Estimated to middle of 1894.	(d) Registered Births.		(e)	1 Small-pox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Group.	5 Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12 Chicken-pox.	13
Sandbach Urban		5,824	6,000	190						Notification	Act	not	adopted.					

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: No. Since when? Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: *Arclid.*

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS
OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i) { Under 5.. 5 upwards.	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	(g) At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.		FEVERS.																						
(a)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	All Other Diseases.					Total.				
Sandbach Urban	88	21	8	5	4	23	27	Under 5.. 5 upwards.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	29
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.			

SANDBACH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average.	1894.	General.		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
190	88	2	33·5	31·6	16·1	14·6	1·04	0·33	27	21	30·8	23·8

TABLE II.

*Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths
in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.*

[illegible]

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

1. *Inspection*.—The District has had the continuous attention of the Inspector during the year.

2. *Sanitary Condition of District*.—The condition is fairly good, considering the age of the buildings and the kind of closets which have been constructed. About one-third of the places are fitted with pails, and since the public water has been laid on, a considerable number of water-closets have been put in. The rest are the old-fashioned cesspools. Many of these have been altered, so as to keep the excreta separate and the ashes dry. By this means the open cesspools, with excreta exposed to the sun and rain, have been covered, and, the ashes being dry, can be removed in the daytime without creating a nuisance.

3. *Excrement and Ashes Removal*.—During the year 2,125 visits have been paid for the removal of ashes, and 1,400 loads taken away; 10,527 visits have been paid for nightsoil, and 559 tubs have been disposed of, value £116. 3s. 3d. This value is not an estimated, or a merely approximate one, for since the 1st January to December 31st, 1894, the amount collected and paid to the Treasurer for nightsoil was £137. 4s. 9d. This is the largest sum we have realised in any one year for nightsoil. The result to the crops has been good in all cases.

4. *Water Supply*.—In the District we have 1,341 houses; of these, 75 are off the pipe line. The Analyst has reported on and approved water from private wells which supply 104 houses. 1,067 are using Town's water. 95 have still to be fitted up; 17 of these are in the town, 78 are in an outlying District, where the mains have only recently been laid down.

The revenue arising from the water this year from the various consumers is £700; this, we hope, will meet nearly all the charges that will accrue in respect of water.

The average degree of hardness in the water has been $5\frac{2}{10}$.

5. *Canal Boats*.—The Canal only runs for a short distance in the District, and no lock on the length, the boats passing from one portion of the Congleton Rural Sanitary Authority to another. No systematic inspection has been attempted.

6. *New Houses*.—Nineteen new houses have been erected during the year in the District; in all cases 9in. party walls have been insisted on between dwellings to secure complete isolation. A number of new erections are semi-detached; this mode of building may cause more damp walls, but there will be more light and air around the dwellings.

7. *Legal Proceedings*.—The Authority, though initiating a public supply of water, and conducting a very large market, has happily not needed to resort to Legal Proceedings during the year.

8. *Dairies and Cowsheds* have been visited, and found clean and in good order.

AMOS WOOD,
Inspector.

WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Local Board of Health, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Urban District Council of Winsford. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Council or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

There is nothing to the mind of your Medical Officer of Health more certain than that a period of sanitary perfection will some day dawn upon, and endure in, the world. But this consummation must not be violently rushed on at the cost of creating undesirable cries of injustice, or periods of social tumult, either by the pursuit of mistaken ways, or even of right ones before science and the times are ripe. But it must no less be the object of all to leave no reasonable effort unexerted to prevent as many intervening accidents to life and health as possible.

There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homocea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

I fear that our Sanitary record for the year 1894 will not be so good as it has been in former years. Yet, in many respects, it has been more favourable.

Our average Death-rate in the published records has been 17·3; but in the year 1894 it is 14·2. This is a remarkably low urban death-rate. It is 2·4 per 1,000 population below that of England and Wales, as determined by the Registrar General.

Our Old Age Death-rate is 22·2 per 1,000 population; and our Infantile Death-rate 29·0 per 1,000. 29·0 per 1,000 is an undesirably large proportion of infant mortality, though it is true that 12 out of the 44 deaths are referred to Whooping Cough, a disease particularly fatal under the first year of age. I have no evidence that insanitary conditions have been concerned in bringing about any of these deaths. The principal causes will be found to be insufficient clothing, improper and insufficient food (promoted in some instances by inebriety of the parents), bad management, neglect, early marriages, and debility of mothers. These evils, which are entirely social, should be known to and corrected by other agencies than that of the District Council, especially Schoolmasters, Ministers of Religion, and visitors amongst the poor. It is sad for the poor to be thus early robbed of their offspring. They have so few pleasures, and the birth of a child must be the greatest. But for a babe to be born only to die must be a source of benumbing affliction. Nor is this all; but I must not enlarge.

Again, few people know how rare an article of diet milk is in the households of the poor. Had this not been the case many of these lamentable deaths might have been obviated. And yet, in the expansive breasts of every mother how Nature teaches the obvious lesson! For poor people to aver that they cannot afford milk is a palpable falsehood, when it is known that the cost of a glass of beer would furnish an average-sized family with sufficient skimmed milk for an entire day; and the prejudice against skimmed milk is only comparable to a person refusing the lean of meat, the nutritious part, because he cannot get any fat, which is only its condiment.

The Zymotic Death-rate is practically nothing, only including two deaths from diseases made subject, by Act of Parliament, to compulsory notification. The other deaths from Zymotic Diseases include 12 Whooping Cough, 3 Measles, 1 Scarlatina, and 2 Diarrhœa.

The District has been systematically inspected throughout the year 1894.

The Sanitary state of the District is, according to my present knowledge, exceedingly good.

The disposal of excrement has been quite satisfactory, in every respect.

I am not quite sure that the Water Supply can be spoken of in the same applauding terms. But of one thing I am certain, that the old Board has not been negligent in their full consideration of their duty to the Town in this matter. There is no doubt that there has been a benefit to the Town in the provision of an Isolation Hospital.

Common Lodging-houses, Slaughter-houses, Canal Boats, and New Buildings have been inspected throughout the year.

The "Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890" has been impracticable to work under. No legal proceedings have been taken during the year 1894.

The usual Tables accompany this Report.

JOHN M. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health, Mid-Cheshire Combined Sanitary District.

February, 1895.

WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Area in Acres, 5,647. Population (1891), 10,440.
Death-rates { General, 14·2 per 1,000 population.
Infants, 12 2 per 1,000 Births registered.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

(B) Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of WINSFORD, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.									
				FEVERS.									
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Winsford U. ....(H)	10,440	10,600	373	{ Under 5. 5 upwds.	..	11	..	..	..	3	..	..	2

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: Yes. Since when? 1891. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated: Winsford.

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of WINSFORD, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	(b) At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.	1 Small-pox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Group.	5 Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued.	8 Relapsing.	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12 Measles.	13 Whooping Cough.	14 Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	15 Rheumatic Fever.	16 Ague.	17 Phtthisis.	18 Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	19 Heart Disease.	20 Injuries.	21 All Other Diseases.	22 Total.	
Winsford U.	151	44	23	5	4	41	34	Under 5. { 5 upwards.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22

WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average	1894.	General.		Zymotic.*		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
373	151	19	34·8	23·0	17·3	14·2	1·08	·25	34	44	22·2	29·0

* Only including Diseases made subject to Compulsory Notification.

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths, in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000.	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st.....	66	...	9	21	13·8	30·4	...	...	1	...	9	...	1	11	3
June 30th.....															
September 30th.....	39	...	10	8	26·2	25·0	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	2
December 31st.....	46	...	15	15	32·6	32·6	...	3	...	...	...	1	1	5	3

1894.

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, &c.

It is my honour on this occasion to address you under a different Parliamentary name and seal. You are no longer the Local Board of Health, to which designation we have been so long accustomed, and which has worked so well; but you are now the Urban District Council of Biddulph. There is a suggestive meaning in the word Council, and Councillors may pardon me for reminding them of its derivation.

The word Council is derived from the Latin—first, the familiar prefix *con*, which signifies together; and, second, the word *cilia*, which is the Latin name for the edges of the eyelids. Thus we have the word Council or Council, or eyelids placed together. I suppose no more beautiful instance of perfect apposition can be found either in Divine or human machinery than the easy and faultless adjustment of the eyelids, one to another, in all varieties of the animal world. Let us hope that our future consultations may be in harmony with the meaning expressed in the derivation of the new descriptive title by which the old Board will in future be known. May a further result also be found in the applicable use of the similar word counsel, which (also derived from the Latin) signifies the result of council, or a leaping and bounding together in harmonious action.

It is the first aphorism of Hippocrates, perhaps the oldest physician whose teaching has come down to us, that whilst science lives on, human life is brief and subject to change. Thus the Local Board is dead. Long live the District Council!

But what we have to bear in mind is, that whether the life of our new Council be long or short, and by whatever newly-constituted body it may be superseded, the aim of all of them, past, present, and future, should be the same, namely, the progressive achievement of the sanitary advantage of every member of every administrative district. The course upon which this great enterprise must proceed will not change with the varying changes of constituted Authorities, but will advance upon the old lines, only more widely, firmly, and accurately drawn.

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There is one specially weak spot upon which I could wish this Council and myself to have a *locus* for beneficial action.

I allude to the great plague of Intemperance. In future dealing with this terrible evil, we have a slightly advanced *locus* in the new position that the Chairman of every Urban and Rural District Council is now a magistrate. In speaking from a long and very varied experience, I have years since been driven to the conclusion that sanitary evils the most shocking to the senses and to every sympathetic feeling, like the most shocking brutal crimes, are the result alone of this accursed and hitherto invincible vice. So far as sanitary administration is concerned, this vice stands in our way as an insurmountable obstacle to improvements the most necessary and urgent.

The present applicable remedies are too remote, besides being altogether outside our scope. A money penalty for drunkenness, or even a term of imprisonment, only signifies so much increased destitution for the destitute children left at home. Of course there are Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, and there are also various Temperance Organisations, with their Lectures, Sermons, Musical Entertainments, Dramatic Exhibitions, and Dissolving Views.

But these agencies, except perhaps the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with its valuable staff of Inspectors, fail to reach the individual abodes of squalor, wretchedness, destitution, disease, and preventable deaths, all which daily come under the systematic scrutiny of the Officers of your Council. There is a medicine which we now see largely advertised in our newspapers, called "Homoea," the special merit of which medicine is alleged to be that it may be applied to the offending spot. This expresses exactly what I think we want in regard to the terrible curse of Intemperance; and to the devising of some surer, swifter, and more direct method of operating beneficially on the offending spot, I would pressingly urge members of the Council to give their earnest consideration. Whoever may be successful in advancing society one single point in this direction, will do more to abate our grossest sanitary as well as other social evils, than many reams and foolscaps of written statutes have been able to effect.

During the year 1894 there were registered in the Biddulph Urban District 171 Births and 77 Deaths. It is always a good opening when the Births are found to be more than double the number of Deaths. The difference between the two figures represents a natural increase of population of 94, or 20·8 per cent. upon the population.

The advantage of this increase is subject to discount, which will be mentioned presently. The Birth-rate is 31·5, and the Death-rate 14·2, the Birth-rate and Death-rate of the nation, as determined by the Registrar-General, being 29·6, and 16·6 respectively. The number of Deaths referred to the Zymotic Class of Diseases is 3 only, and to the diseases subject to compulsory notification is 2 only, namely, 1 from Small-pox and 1 from Typhoid Fever. This gives the Zymotic Death-rate of 0·55, that for England and Wales being 1·76 per 1,000 living. Thus our Vital Statistics, in all their various aspects, compare favourably with those of the nation.

The behaviour of Small-pox in Biddulph forcibly corroborates a remark that I have previously made in other Reports, namely, that Small-pox is greatly modified and mitigated—indeed, shorn of all its terrors—by almost universal Vaccination. Thus we had in Biddulph in the year 1894, 18 notifications of this disease, but only one death, and that death a more than doubtful one. It was the death of a person 67 years of age, who had been previously ailing. I hurried up as soon as I received the notification, but the old lady had died before the time of my arrival. I should feel justified in saying that there was not a single death certainly attributable to Small-pox. Some of the cases were very severe in the proportion of three out of the 18 assuming the confluent form. All the others were as remarkably light and mild, and several never even went to bed. The disease first showed itself on the 11th February, and the last notification was received on the 27th March. Much sympathy was felt for William Chadwick, the watchmaker. His shop had to be closed, and his business entirely suspended. I should have been glad indeed if the law had allowed me to advise the Board that reasonable compensation might be given in a case of this kind. But such is not the case. Perhaps this is an inadvertent omission in the law. Much credit is due to the Inspector (Mr. Worthington), who caused thorough disinfection to be performed daily in all the infected houses. Dr. Craig also showed great carefulness, using successfully every means to avoid conveying the disease from one house to another.

Thus the duration of the outbreak was fifty-five days. This seems a short period now, but it appeared otherwise at the time. At any rate, it led the Board to take seriously in hand the construction of an Isolation Hospital. Through the kindness and assistance of the Chairman (R. Heath, Esq.), a suitable piece of land was obtained for this purpose, and capital premises now stand available for future use.

The one less satisfactory feature in the Vital Statistics of 1894 is the proportion of Infant Mortality; and this is striking, as no infectious diseases, obnoxious to infants, have been present in the District. As many as 27 out of 77 total deaths died before the completion of the first year of age. I think this too large a proportion, though I am informed it is much larger in other coal districts.

It may be well briefly to analyse the causes of these infant deaths. I observe that 8 are from Bronchitis and 8 from Debility. I do not suppose that insanitary conditions have been concerned in bringing about any of these sadly premature deaths. The principal causes will be found to be insufficient clothing, improper and insufficient food, bad management, neglect, early marriages, and debility of mothers. These evils, which are entirely social, should be known to, and corrected by other agencies than that of the District Council, especially schoolmasters, ministers of religion, and visitors of the poor. It is sad for the poor to be thus early robbed of their offspring. They have so few pleasures, and the birth of a child must be the greatest. But for a babe to be born only to die must be a source of terrible grief. Nor is this all ; but I must not enlarge.

I have thought it my duty to say so much upon the subject of Vital Statistics, that I have left myself little time or space for an account of the general sanitary state of the District. I may say that it is generally satisfactory, as is proved indeed by the favourable statistics which have been mentioned. Systematic Inspection has been pursued as usual.

The track of the Scavenger has been followed, and he has generally been found to have done his duty conscientiously.

There has been a difficulty about the supply of Town Water to the Moor, to which the late Board were giving earnest consideration.

There is no over-crowding in Biddulph, nor are there any Common Lodging-houses.

The Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Slaughter-houses have been visited, and the latter have been found always in a cleanly condition.

The County Council having found fault with our sewage effluent, an additional lease of land is now being negotiated for the purpose of sewage irrigation and purification.

No legal proceedings have been taken during the year.

The usual Tables accompany the Report.

J. M. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health of the Mid-Cheshire Combined Sanitary District.

February, 1895.

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Area in Acres, 5,671. Population (1891), 5,290.
Death-rates { General, 14·2 per 1,000 population.
Infants, 15 8 per 1,000 Births registered.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

(B) Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of BIDDULPH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.				Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													
	Census 1891. (b)	Estimated to middle of 1894. (c)	Registered Births. (d)	{ Age not Notified		Small-pox. 1	Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3	Membranous Croup. 4	FEVERS.						Cholera. 10	Erysipelas. 11	Chicken-pox. 12	13
										Typhus. 5	Enteric or Typhoid. 6	Continued 7	Relapsing 8	Puerperal 9					
Biddulph Urban	5,290	5,400	171		{ Age not Notified	18	12	2	2	..	3	2		

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: Since when? Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated:

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of BIDDULPH, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.												
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	(p) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(d) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.	(i) Under 5. { 5 upwards.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.						All Other Diseases.	Total.
													Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.
(a)									1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Biddulph Urban	77	27	8	3	3	18	18	{ Under 5. { 5 upwards.	1	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	9	1

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics—continued.

TABLE I.

Showing Births, Birth-Rate, Deaths, and General and Zymotic Death-Rates, and compared with former averages ; Deaths in Old Age and Infancy, and percentages of these to total Deaths ; for the year 1894.

TOTAL.			BIRTH-RATE.		DEATH-RATE.				DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS	
Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	Average.	1894.	General.		Zymotic.		At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.
					Average.	1894.	Average.	1894.				
171	77	2*	34.1	31.5	18.4	14.2	1.32	.55	18	27	23.3	35.0

* Only including those Compulsorily Notified.

TABLE II.

Showing Deaths, Death-Rates, Zymotic Deaths, and Old Age and Infantile Deaths in the Four Quarters of the year 1894.

Quarter Ending	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	DEATHS		PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS		Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid.	Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Phthisis.
			At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.	At 65 years and upwards.	Under One year.									
March 31st	43	...	12	15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
June 30th															
September 30th	16	...	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
December 31st	18	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...

